



COURIER HUB TO CREATE 140 JOBS

Report by John Corser

A NEW distribution hub opening near Halesowen will create 140 jobs by 2019, it has been revealed.

Initially 60 people are being recruited at the new One World Express site at Woodgate Business Park.

The logistics and e-commerce specialist's investment is worth £6 million and in the long term involves another 80 jobs.

It has taken a 100-year lease on the new site for £3m and it includes a warehouse and offices. With headquarters in Hayes in west London, One World Express currently has a workforce of more than 50 people and a warehouse in Hounslow. The hub at the site close to the M5 is the first UK investment the company has made outside London.

One World Express was founded as a courier service in 1998, targeting the African market. It has since evolved into a specialist e-commerce and software provider for companies and consumers across the world.

The trend for buying goods via websites has boosted significant levels of trading with China, now the source of the company's main customers. One World Express even set up an office in China in 2014 to deal with growing consumer demand, and also has a base in the US.

Expand

Managing director of One World Express, Atul Bhakta, said: "We have continually outgrown our premises since One World Express was founded in 1998 and decided in 2014 that we needed to expand outside the south-east."

"Birmingham's central location and international connections – with Birmingham Airport offering direct links to our key markets – provide us with the ideal platform for further expansion."

"Although our new site will become a central logistical hub for One World Express, we are also employing a large number of people in customer services."

Birmingham City Council, which also owns Woodgate Business Park, has assisted One World Express with local recruitment through its employment and skills service.

The 5,600 sq metre site at Woodgate Business Park has undergone a significant refurbishment, and now includes a double mezzanine floor – almost tripling the floorspace.

One World Express has also invested in its technology, with one of its sorting machines able to handle over 9,000 parcels per hour.

MUSKETEERS PANTO IS ANOTHER STARTIME HIT



Startime Variety's Musketeers panto team, from left, Emily Lane, Darcy Grainger, Clive Ditchfield, Gemma Mills and Kate Churchill

A PERFORMING arts society has wowed the crowds in Halesowen with a swashbuckling pantomime.

The Musketeers was written and directed by Mike Clifford and staged at the town's Cornbow Hall, in Hagley Street.

The adventurous antics from Startime Variety provided family entertainment as Clive Ditchfield, Gemma Mills and Darcy Grainger played the intrepid trio pursuing their quest for a treasure.

Ricky Hammond played D'Artagnan, who fell in love with Princess Lottery, played by

Emily Lane. Other principals included Katie Potter, John Pemberto, Kay Churchill and Adam Chester.

Darcy, aged 23 who works at Sandwell Academy, said: "I love being involved with the society. We're like one big family. We have always tried to vary our performances, trying our best to appeal to every kind of audience."

"I've been doing it around eight years now and it is something I thoroughly enjoy. We promise to put on a show people won't forget – they'll have to drag us off stage we love performing that much."

"We always look to raise money, and change charities each year. We want to raise as much as we can to help those who need it in the area."

The show ran from Wednesday to Saturday night including a matinee.

Approaching its 50th year, the society was originally called Tenterfield Ladies Club back in 1967, and started putting on a variety of shows and performing to raise money for local charities. It now puts on two shows a year and the next will be in the summer. For more information see www.startimevariety.co.uk

TRAFFIC

Parking restrictions on roads by campus

PARKING restrictions are being brought in within weeks for roads near Halesowen College's main campus after the scheme was approved.

Residents had urged Dudley Council to tackle problem parking which blocked roads, including Newfield Crescent and Whittingham Road.

Waiting bays will be introduced in Whittingham Road, operating from 7am to 7pm, with a no-waiting restriction in place in Newfield Crescent between 10am and 11am, and 2pm to 3pm. The scheme was given the green light on Tuesday.

DRUGS

Police find £58k worth of cannabis

AROUND £58,000 worth of cannabis was found by police at a flat in Halesowen.

Officers discovered 58 cannabis plants in the ground floor property in the early morning raid on the address at Manor Lane on Saturday.

Police reported no-one was in the building at the time of the swoop and no arrests had been made in relation to the incident as The Chronicle went to Press. Anyone with information can call police on 101.

THREATS

Hoax callers strike again at six schools

SIX schools in the Black Country and Birmingham have received more hoax bomb threats – causing disruption for the third week in a row.

Police said the 'false and malicious' calls were received on Monday after 8am. Lessons were resumed by 10am.

Oldbury and Bristnall Hall academies were threatened for the fourth time, and Shireland Collegiate Academy and Perryfields High for the second time. Hall Green Secondary School and Edgbaston Girls High School faced threats for the first time.

Last week two 14-year-olds were arrested regarding earlier hoax calls.

INSIDE

CUBS ENJOY BIRTHDAY BASH



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Manhunt leads to capture of fraudster



Marvin Campbell - jailed

A FRAUDSTER convicted of his role in a £730,000 fraud has finally been captured after a manhunt traced him to Halesowen.

Marvin Campbell, aged 28, was jailed for more than eight years in his absence last month at Birmingham Crown Court.

Campbell, of Willingworth Close, Bilston, and Henry Ogunde, 33, of Goode Close, Bilston, had approached people on the streets of the West Midlands, taking them for dinner and buying them clothes to gain their trust.

They used these people as 'money mules' to set up bank accounts, fake companies and move cash for them. If those they had groomed resisted they were often threatened with violence.

Those involved were offered up to £40,000 for their complicity but in reality, at most, only received a few hundred pounds. Among those targeted were unemployed people living in social housing or with no fixed address.

The pair netted £730,000 of fraudulently obtained cash and goods.

Campbell pleaded guilty to conspir-

acy to commit fraud, two counts of concealing, disguising, converting or transferring criminal property and possession of articles for the use in fraud.

Ogunde was found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud, two counts of merchant services fraud, money laundering and two counts of possession of documents for use in fraud.

The National Crime Agency said Campbell was found at an address in Halesowen. He had two months added to his eight and a half year sentence at Birmingham Crown Court last week.

Move made to block bar extending hours

A COUNCILLOR is trying to block a Black Country bar from extending its opening hours into the early hours of the morning over fears of rowdy behaviour.

Owners of Presley's Bar in High Street, Cradley Heath wants to stay open until 1.30am between Thursday and Saturday and 12.30am the rest of the week. Bosses also want to be able to play music until 12.30am between Thursday and Saturday and an hour earlier the rest of the week.

But Cradley Heath councillor Julie Webb believes allowing the venue to stay open for longer would mean people living nearby having to put up with noise and trouble.

The bar, which opened at the end of last year on the site of the former Essentials store, currently must close at 12.30am between Thursday and Saturday and 11pm during the rest of the week.

Measures

The measures were put in place by council licensing chiefs who were concerned that people living in flats above the venue could be disturbed if the bar stayed open for longer.

Sandwell Council's environment team has also raised concerns about noise impact.

However, Dean Davis, who helps run the bar, insists that residents living in the flats do not have a problem with the changes.

He said: "We have an acoustic sound-proofed ceiling and Environmental Health came and did a sound check.

"The residents said they were happy to live with it and once the TV is on you can't even hear it.

"What we have clearly stated is we have doormen on Fridays and Saturdays and that is not on the kind of clientele we get in there - it's more old-school people than the young ones."

"The music will mostly be background music, we don't want anything heavy. Occasionally we might want a DJ."

But Councillor Webb believes the more time customers have to drink, the more likely they are to be noisy when they leave.

Councillors are due to visit the site next month in order to make an assessment about the impact of the later opening.

Arrest after car crashes into tree



The wreckage of the silver Nissan Almera which was badly damaged and left on its side in Hawne Lane

A MAN was arrested after a car believed to be stolen crashed into a tree and ended up on its side in the middle of the road.

The 21-year-old fled the scene but was caught after police scrambled a helicopter above Halesowen.

Officers are still looking for a second man who they believe was a passenger in the silver Nissan Almera at the time of the accident.

The car was badly damaged and left overturned in Hawne Lane, which was temporarily closed in both directions.

Police began searching a nearby wooded area after both occupants ran away at around 1pm on Saturday.

Two fire crews from Brierley Hill were also called out to the scene but left at 2pm after helping to

sweep debris from out of the road.

Hannah Fitzgerald, spokeswoman for West Midlands Police, said: "A 21-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of theft and is currently helping officers with their inquiries."

She added: "Officers are continuing to search for a second person who is believed to have been a passenger in the car."

An ambitious expansion is proposed at Hindu temple

A HINDU temple in the Black Country, that is already the largest in Europe, has revealed a major expansion plan.

Ambitious proposals for the 21-acre Balaji Temple complex in Tividale have been submitted. Sandwell Council to construct a new building for processions and festivals.

These set out a scheme to construct a 15-metre-tall building, which would house a festival chariot, and to build a processional route around the site off Dudley Road East.

Temple trustee Dr Venkataramana Rao said the scheme would ensure the temple was better equipped to host some of the key Hindu festivals.

He said: "At the moment we can't keep the chariot anywhere outside because it's made of wood - that's why we need this new building."

"All the temples in India and also those in London have chariots and places to keep them. It is an important part of the worship of Hindu gods, that's why we have a chariot."

"At the moment the route around the temple won't hold the weight of the chariot. The chariots are normally pulled by 20 or 30 devotees."

The application states: "To accommodate a large chariot, the internal floor area is 30 sq m and height of the building reaches 14.9m. Eleven metre tall roller shutters have been incorporated into the design for easy movement of the chariot in and out of the building."

Council planners will rule on the application in due course.

History comes to life in talks

A SERIES of talks are being held in local libraries.

The Building Stones of the Dudley Area is the subject of an hour-long talk by Keith Hodgkins at Halesowen Library on Wednesday, February 10, from 2.30pm. Two Blokes, Two Chairs an' a Chap Called John is the title for a talk at Dudley Library on February 23 features stories, songs and discussion about life in the Black Country with Billy Bren Hawthorne and John Langford, from 3.15pm.

The last February talk, The First World War and Stourbridge, by Kenneth Wright, is at Stourbridge Library on February 26 at 2.30pm.

Tickets to each of the talks cost £3. For further information contact Dudley Libraries on (01384) 815560.

Fast-track course for new lecturers

HALESOWEN College has launched a teacher-training course to help potential lecturers change careers quickly. Students can now complete a Diploma in Education and Training course in one year instead of two at the college, partnered by the University of Worcester.

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£25k fund to start up a scheme for traders

AROUND £25,000 of funding has been secured for a project aiming to boost investment in Halesowen.

Campaigners are hoping to set up a Business Improvement District to fund a range of projects in the town centre.

Public events, clean-up programmes and improved marketing are among projects which could be funded through the scheme.

The BID scheme will see firms join forces to create a single company, with each member paying a levy. Members will then get to decide how the money is spent.

It is estimated that a BID company in Halesowen could generate £51,668 with a one per cent levy and £103,337 if it is set at two per cent.

Halesowen BID manager Barry Wheeler said he was delighted the group had secured the start-up funding through Dudley Council.

"We are happy to have this money now to allow us to move forward," he said.

This cash allows business plans to be drawn up and a glossy brochure is being created to help market the scheme.

Mr Wheeler said he would be holding meetings with traders this month to encourage signing up with BID. A majority of members are needed to vote in favour of setting up the scheme during a late spring poll.

A similar scheme is being worked on for Stourbridge while a BID team is already up and running in West Bromwich.

Registration is launched for runs

THIS year's Black Country Run will take place in Halesowen on Sunday, July 3. Registration has already opened on the event's website at www.theblackcountryrun.com and this year there will be a 5k family fun run alongside the 10k event.

Last year more than 1,100 runners took part in the 10k event organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club. Those taking part in the main event and the family fun run will help to raise lots of money for various charities and good causes.

The 2015 run raised £23,000 and the total amount now raised for charity since the inaugural event in 2012 is £77,000.

The 10k race will start at 9am and the fun run at 11.30am.

Beach Boy brings his Pet Sounds

BEACH Boys legend Brian Wilson is to play in Birmingham onto mark the 50th anniversary of one of his band's most famous albums. The Pet Sounds anniversary tour visits Symphony Hall on March 18.

White Dee's bags of help for charity



Dee Kelly helps pack for shopper Francesca Fudge

A SUPPORT group hosted a celebrity bag packing event at a supermarket in Stourbridge to raise funds for victims of abusive relationships.

Dee Kelly, known as White Dee, from the series Benefits Street backed the group SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse) at their fundraising event at Tesco.

Fundraisers spent two hours packing shoppers' bags and collecting money on Friday, which will go to supporting victims.

The TV reality star first got on board with group after speaking to founder Sam Billingham on Twitter, after he had asked Dee for support.

Dee was won over by the courage shown by Sam, who was a victim of domestic abuse, and offered a helping hand with the fundraising.

At the event, Dee said: "It is an honour that somebody would want me to help them with something they are so passionate about. She is an inspirational

woman. I am now a patron of the group."

Sam Billingham, who set up SODA in 2009, said: "I wanted to help people in that situation and didn't feel there was being offered to put, and so I set up a support group."

"It is amazing really to have Dee Kelly on board. I know she is really busy but for her to take time out to help me is brilliant."

To find out more about the group visit www.sodahq.org

South must take its fair share of refugees

WEALTHY southern areas of the country should take their fair share of Syrian refugees, says Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The Labour MP said that asylum seekers were overwhelmingly concentrated in poorer communities in the North and the Midlands, while many richer areas in the South had taken 'virtually none'.

He said this was putting a strain on public services including schools and hospitals, and called for a fairer distribution of asylum seekers across the UK.

Mr Austin was speaking in a Parliamentary debate on the resettlement of refugees following the Government's commitment to house another 20,000 from Syria.

Dudley supports nearly half as many asylum seekers as the entire South East, he said, while wealthy communities represented by the Prime Minister and nine other cabinet ministers had not taken in a single asylum seeker.

Mr Austin also said there were 380 asylum seekers in all of the areas represented by the cabinet - fewer than in either Wolverhampton or Sandwell. He highlighted official figures showing that the Black Country councils had taken in almost as many asylum seekers as the South West, South East and East put together.

Support

He said: "People in Dudley have always played their part in welcoming people fleeing persecution abroad, but it's about time people elsewhere did the same."

"The Government must find a fairer way of dispersing people around the country to ease pressure on public services like housing, schools and the NHS in communities like ours."

Last year an investigation by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star revealed that one-in-three asylum seekers were sent to the West Midlands. Asylum seekers receive £36 a week, known as Section 95 support, while their application for refugee status is assessed.

Dudley had 226 asylum seekers supported under Section 95, while Sandwell had 695, Wolverhampton 645 and Walsall 234. A total of 1,800 were housed in the Black Country. In the South and East there were 1,843.

Mr Austin wants to see EU structural funds used in areas such as the Black Country that face the biggest pressures on public services.

Anniversary for cancer help group



Founder Denise Hudson (left), of Stourton, Steve Waltho and Jayne Waltho, with Elaine Crowder, of Norton

A CANCER support group is celebrating its tenth anniversary and several successful fundraising events.

The Rainbow Breast Reconstruction group was formed by Denise Hudson and Debbie Barnett who met at a checkout at Sainsbury's in Amblecote and found they were both recovering from breast cancer.

Over the years the group has helped ladies undergoing breast

reconstruction following cancer, as well as raising up to £60,000 for The White House cancer charity and Russells Hall Hospital cancer unit in Dudley.

Mayor and mayoress of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho and his wife Jayne, were present for the celebration last week along with Elaine Crowder from Sainsbury's.

Mrs Hudson, who officially started the charity in January 2006, said belonging to the group

had allowed her to meet inspiring people. She added: "I would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped us over the past 10 years. I feel privileged to have met some lovely people who have inspired me. It is about living through cancer and doing something positive and everyone has come together as a community."

The group gets together every third Thursday at The White House in Ednam Road, Dudley.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roadworks alert over gas project

MOTORISTS face disruption as roadworks that could last up to five weeks got under way in Rowley Regis.

Church Road, from Kowley Village to Longmeadow, and Park Avenue have been closed for work to replace a gas mains.

The work, which began last week, will see traffic from Church Road diverted via Hawes Lane, Tiptopy Green, Portway Road and Hanover Road. Park Avenue diversions will be via Church Road and Newhall Road. The work by Balfour Beatty is expected to finish on February 19.

UKIP wants more female support

UKIP representative for Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, Karen Jones, has been unanimously elected to take the helm as chairman of the UKIP Dudley and Halesowen branch.

Mrs Jones said she was ready for the challenges ahead. "The local elections are just around the corner and UKIP is already on the march as we fight to bolster our numbers on Dudley Council."

She added: "As the branch's first female chairman, I hope to encourage more women to stand up for Dudley by joining us."

Catering student gets bursary boost

A CATERING student from Halesowen College has been successful in gaining a £100 bursary from the Gordon Sibbald Bursary Fund.

Daniel McComb, aged 18, was nominated by the college for his enthusiasm, hard work and customer care in the training restaurant.

The former Windsor High School pupil was one of 30 students around the country who were successful in getting a bursary from the bursary fund.

Tory candidate for crime commissioner

A FORMER leader of Dudley Council has been picked by the Conservative Party as their candidate for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

Les Jones, aged 60, previously stood as the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner candidate at the 2014 by-election.

Mr Jones represents Pedmore and Stourbridge East on Dudley Council. He was also chairman of finance at the old West Midlands Police Authority.

Arena wins venue title

THE Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham won the Best Arts or Entertainment Venue category in the city's 2016 Wonders of Westside Awards.

The winners were revealed during the awards night, just a short distance from the arena at the International Convention Centre.


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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Bishop of London suggests that bearded vicars may find it easier to "reach out" to Muslims. The snag, of course, is that a majority of new priests in the Anglican Church are female. A burka, perhaps?

THE Mad World of Donald Trump (C4) seemed to start with a prejudiced title. But the more you watched Matt Frei's hour-long documentary, the more the word "mad" seemed appropriate. Donald Trump is triumphing because America is scared and wants a new messiah. It's scared of migration, scared of terrorists, scared of things that are foreign, alien or not understood. The irony is that the perceived solution – electing President Donald J Trump – is scarier than anything else.

BUT let's not be too snuffy and superior. How many Paris-scale massacres would it take in London, Birmingham or Manchester before Trumpery arose in England?



EMMA Reynolds, Wolverhampton MP and former shadow minister, is, like many MPs, too young to remember life outside the EU (or Common Market as we were told to call it). When she says leaving the EU would be "the worst of all worlds," she is addressing an ageing electorate, many of whom recall

Britain before the 1975 referendum, and remember it rather fondly.

I WONDER if Worcester feels any sense of communal shame over the rush by hordes of locals chasing the £33 million Lotto jackpot. Okay, one or two may genuinely believe they have the winning ticket. But Camelot report hundreds of claimants, suggesting attempted fraud on a massive scale. Oxford is the city of dreaming spires. Is Worcester the city of scheming liars?

A READER shares a gem of a platform announcement at Birmingham New Street. It works best in a Brummie accent: "Platform Six for the 16:33 to Northampton, calling at Marston Green (slight pause) and lots of other places."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Council threaten action over unpaid tax of 4p

A MAN has been threatened with court action by Sandwell Council over an unpaid council tax bill – of four pence.

David Burke was staggered when he opened a letter from Sandwell Council urgently demanding he pay up. He was even offered the opportunity to pay the sum off in instalments.

The notice warned Mr Burke, from Wednesbury, who works for an aerospace company, that the council would begin legal proceedings if he did not pay up.

It also warned him that if legal proceedings were started in the court then, as a result, he would then have to meet court costs of £72.

The 40-year-old said his initial reaction to the letter was amusement but he became angry when he called the council.

Debit

Mr Burke pays his council tax via direct debit, so the full amount should have come out of his account automatically.

He said: "I phoned them up and said 'look, with the cost of sending the letter, this is ridiculous'.

"I said 'can you explain why you have sent me a letter threatening me with court action for 4p?'"

He was told it was likely there had been a glitch with the payment system.

Mr Burke said: "They will always try and blame the automated system but the system is flawed if they are

going to send me this bill of 4p with magistrates court costs attached."

He said he found it incredible a cash-strapped council which is trying to save millions of pounds would come after him for 4p.

"It's a disgrace. How many people have they sent these to and been told they will have to go to court?"

"For 4p, it's a waste of taxpayers' money. With all the admin costs, they are throwing money away doing this."

Despite the hassle, Mr Burke was also able to see the funny side.

He said: "I said I'd had a whip round at work as we were all really concerned."

"I offered to pay the 4p but they said as a gesture of good will they would write it off."

"It cost me £3 to get through!"

Sandwell Council said it was investigating.

By Richard Guttridge

Joanne on track in Nashville



Blues singer and guitarist Joanne Shaw Taylor in action

BLACK Country blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor has arrived in Nashville to record her latest album.

The guitarist and singer is writing songs for the follow up to her critically-acclaimed 2014 album 'The Dirty Truth', which was recorded in Memphis.

She will also be supporting Cannock-born rock star Glenn Hughes on his US tour. The former Deep purple bassist and Black Country Communion singer starts his solo tour of the US on March 2 in San Jose, California.

Joanne, who was discovered at the age of 16 by Eurythmics guitarist Dave Stewart, will also support legendary guitarist and cancer survivor Wilko Johnson on his next tour.

The Wednesbury-born musician will be playing at six of the former Dr Feelgood member's concerts in the spring, from April 14 to 23, but the most local date – at Leamington Spa – has already sold out.

Joanne released her debut album 'White Sugar' in 2009, played guitar in Annie Lennox's band at the Diamond Jubilee concert in London and counts Stevie Wonder among her celebrity fans.

College in offer to meet with protesters

A COLLEGE principal says she is willing to hold talks with campaigners protesting over plans to build a new access road through playing fields.

Dozens of objections have been lodged against plans by King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, to alter access to The Green Fields, off Love Lane, Oldswinford.

People living near the fields, which are used by sports clubs, fear the new road could cause congestion and parking problems if given the green light.

Campaigners have formed an action group and member Richard Deakin said he had delivered letters to the college to highlight concern.

Efforts

College principal Remley Mann said officials had made efforts to reach campaigners and were happy to hold talks with residents.

Miss Mann said: "We have received messages of support for these proposals from many of our neighbours, we are also aware of the concerns raised by other residents. The Foundation Trustees of King Edward VI College, who are the freeholders of The Green Fields, extended an invitation to residents in their letter dated January 11 to meet with Jeff Caseley, college site manager, to listen to their concerns. To date neither Mr Caseley nor I have received a request to meet with residents."

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School claims GCSE figures don't give the full picture

A BLACK Country school says that official figures ranking it as bottom of Dudley's secondary school league tables don't give a true picture of the its performance.

Statistics released by the Department for Education (DfE) placed Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School bottom of Dudley's school league tables for GCSE results.

But school leaders say the figures have been distorted due to pupils studying an alternative curriculum that staggers the times when they take exams. They say that last year 77 per cent of final year pupils at Elmfield achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C, including English and maths.

Burst water main causes traffic chaos

A BURST water main caused traffic chaos on a main road in the Black Country.

The Park Road in Cradley was closed on Friday afternoon, forcing traffic and buses to be diverted.

The busy road, which connects Stourbridge and Halesowen, was shut between Colley Lane and Barrack Lane at around noon as emergency repairs were carried out to the water main. Motorists were warned to expect delays.

Water could be seen flowing down the road three hours after the road was closed.

The closure saw traffic backing up in the area. The number 9 bus to Birmingham had to be diverted because of the leak.

It came as another burst water main caused problems near West Bromwich town centre. One lane of Trinity Way was closed near the junction with High Street at around 3pm.

School spokesman Chris Field said: "At Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School students study the Steiner Waldorf curriculum, rather than the National Curriculum.

"This curriculum contains all the subjects you would expect such as maths, English, science and languages. From Year 10 students study for their GCSEs, whilst continuing to study the Steiner Waldorf Curriculum until Year 12. As a result of this they stagger their exams, taking up to four GCSEs in Year 11 and a further four in Year 12.

Majority

"Our pupils' GCSE results are consistently above the national average with the vast majority of students going onto sixth form college and university. However, the DfE, when reporting GCSE results across the country, do not look at our GCSEs taken in Year 12.

"Our pupils have only taken four GCSEs at the end of Year 11 so even if they have got four A*s they will appear to have failed by the DfE's measure of five GCSEs. It is only by looking at the results of our Year 12 final year students that you get the full picture."

Memorial to man who saved 10,000



From left, Jack Austin, Pete Lowe, Michael Smith, Stephen Higgs, Steve and Jayne Waltho unveil the tree

MAJOR Frank Foley was known as the 'British Schindler' for saving tens of thousands of Jews from the German Concentration camps.

Now, a tree and plaque have been officially unveiled in his adopted home town of Stourbridge to remember the heroic civil servant, who also worked for MI6 in Nazi Germany.

As a passport control officer at the British Embassy in Berlin he helped persecuted Jews flee Germany during the 1930s by issuing them with vital travel documents, many of them children. He even hid people in his own home as the Nazis started rounding-up Jewish families.

Major Foley, who moved to Stourbridge after the war and died in 1958, was awarded the Righteous Among the Nations honour by the state of Israel in 1999. It is estimated that he saved more than 10,000 people who otherwise may have been murdered in concentration camps.

The memorial is now growing in Mary Stevens Park after being unveiled in front of Foley family members, Dudley North MP Ian Austin, Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe, and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, and Jack Austin, ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Major Foley was the great uncle of Stephen Higgs who, with wife, Veronica, and cousin, David, are his last relatives. Mr Higgs, who travelled from Carlisle, said: "We were obviously delighted and touched that Frank was going to be remembered in such a way in Stourbridge."

Dudley Group NHS Trust has a new boss

A NEW chairman has been appointed at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Jenni Ord, who was previously chairman of Health Education West Midlands, took over the role from David Badger, who stepped down on December 31.

She said: "I'm absolutely delighted to take on this new and exciting role at a trust where I believe great patient care and excellent services are delivered to the people of Dudley and the surrounding areas."

"The Trust has had an excellent year to date with fantastic performance in many areas and I look forward to ensuring this success continues and excels further in the future through working collaboratively and productively with our colleagues in health, social care and the voluntary sector."

A new non-executive director, Julian Atkins, has also been appointed. Mr Atkins has succeeded David Bland as non-executive director and will be part of the Council of Governors' Strategy Committee.

Park concert to mark Moseley rock milestone

BIRMINGHAM band Ocean Colour Scene are marking the 20th anniversary of their best known album Moseley Shoals with a special open air concert in the city this summer.

Moseley Shoals in Moseley Park is planned for Friday, July 15. It will see the band, which formed in Moseley in 1989, performing songs from the album including the major hit Riverboat Song. Tickets for the concert are sale from the www.moseleyfolk.co.uk website.

Ocean Colour Scene, including Steve Cradock and Simon Fowler, will be supported by Reverend and The Makers and The Sherlocks.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Charity, yes but wrong person to promote it

NOW, I've never heard of the charity Survivors of Domestic Abuse before, but if it offers help and support for victims of marital violence then it sounds like a very worthy cause.

So why, when it was collecting money at Tesco in Stourbridge, did it choose "White Dee" Deirdre Kelly from Benefits Street to promote its fundraising effort? I know we live in a television-obsessed age, where anyone who has appeared on the small screen is now considered to be some kind of celebrity. But does somebody, whose main claim to fame has been milking the benefits system for years on end, really make you want hand over your hard-earned cash? Surely they could have found a better ambassador.

□□□

ACTOR Will Smith has spoken to clarify his boycott of last month's Oscars. Although I'm not sure 'clarify' is the word.

"The media creates the 'us and them' and for me there is no us and them, it's 'we'," he said. Don't really know what he is talking about, but might have guessed it would somehow be the media's fault.

"There's a regression of America in general of separatism ... so for me it's more about putting my hand up and reminding my community, the Hollywood community, that we have to lead. Diversity is America's superpower, that is what makes our country great, and in Hollywood we have to be pushing forward even in a time of wider regression."

I think that's luvvie speak for he wants Hollywood to ensure all communities are represented. And he's right.

This year's Oscars nominations were a disgrace. Ten categories, 221 nominations, and all from the same narrow group.

Not a single actor from the Black Country. I definitely won't be attending next year.

□□□

BUT seriously though, amid all the eulogies to Sir Terry Wogan, the one comment that stood out was that he was the man who introduced 'the accent' to the airwaves.

Unashamedly proud of his Irishness, Wogan himself said his distinctive voice gave him a "classlessness" which meant he couldn't be pigeon-holed.

If only we were so enlightened when it comes to domestic accents. Sadly though, almost exactly half a century since he joined the BBC, there is still a perception that anybody with a Midland accent – regardless of their social background or educational achievement – is a figure of fun, okay for stand-up or playing the dimwit in sitcoms, but lacking authority when it comes to the serious stuff.

Want to do the difficult stuff? Better fake a Home Counties accent, old boy.

Clearly, some accents are more classless than others.



Cubs tuck into fish and chip at the Black Country Living Museum



Explorers — the youngsters run through the museum's streets



Eyes love cupcakes, says Georgie Young during the day out

Cubs get together to mark 100 years

More than 1,000 Cub Scouts descended upon the Black Country Living Museum, NICK HUMPHREYS reports

MORE than 1,250 youngsters and leaders descended on the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouts.

Dubbed The Wildest Birthday Party Ever, children from across the region enjoyed an action-packed day out at the museum, with boat rides, a visit to the school and trip down a mine.

The event on Sunday, January 24, kicked off proceedings for the organisation's centenary year celebrations.

Mark Bache, assistant county commissioner for the West Mercia Cub Scouts, has been involved with cubs for more than 30 years.

He believes that despite the amount of games and gadgets available to youngsters nowadays, cubs is still as strong an institution as ever, and offers essential learning, fun and adventure for children. He said: "We've had lots of things going on and we've kicked things off with a bit of a party."

"They had a tour of the museum, they went in the school, in the mine, they have done all of it."

Adventure

"For me, it's about giving young people fun and adventure. We do all sorts of activities. The weather was a bit overcast but it was warm enough for us and stayed dry which was the main thing."

"It was fantastic, the kids had a brilliant time and it was a great way to start our centenary year."

"We have our County Camp in July, which is called Jungle Jam 100, and there will be lots of different events at local clubs over the year."

"Our activities will finish for the year on December 16, when we'll be renewing the promise."

He added: "Scouting is the West Midlands



1st Bromley-Pensnett cubs get ready to sample a celebration cake shaped like a cub's shirt

is huge and we do some amazing things. We have also teamed up with Dudley Canal Trust and are taking 800 young people and adult volunteers through the tunnels under Dudley."

Alex Peace-Gadsby, chief commissioner for England, hopes the centenary celebrations

draw attention to the cubs, and inspire more youngsters to get involved.

She said: "So many great things are already in place. We've got some fantastic partners providing days out for cubs across the UK and there's a brilliant new website packed full of

resources to help make it an unforgettable year."

"By our reckoning, there will be more than 5,000 thanks events, adventure camps and Promise parties."

"The anniversary represents both an opportunity and a challenge. It's a great opportunity to inspire young people to stay to the very end of cubs and make the jump into Scouts."

"I'm so impressed and grateful at the way volunteers are using the year to provide an even more adventurous programme for our young people, with plenty of opportunities for camping and sleepovers – exactly the sort of thing that keeps cubs coming back for more."

"Whatever we do for Cubs100, we mustn't let this opportunity pass us by."

"Rather than celebrate behind closed doors we need to give the world a taste of the special fun, magic and optimism that has made cubs such an incredible success over the last 100 years."

There are around 150,000 cubs aged between eight and 10 in the UK.

Cubs forms the middle section of a Scout group, with the Beaver colony below and the Scout troop above.

There are seven challenge awards in scouting, with categories being Outdoor and Adventure, Beliefs and Attitudes, Community, Fitness, Creative and Global. Activity badges are awarded for demonstrating skill or achievement in a particular subject which may be an existing hobby or a new area of knowledge.

There are currently 34 different badges available. Cubs take part in activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. They also learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming, or even how to fly a plane. Organisers say it's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment.

West Mercia Cub Scouts covers Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire. For further information, visit www.westmerciascouts.org.uk

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Every dog is a nuisance, even friendly ones

WHY does D White think that just because dog owners use Himley seven days a week, 52 weeks a year and pay a parking fee to do so, that should entitle them to call the shots about how the park is used?

Has he/she ever considered that may be the reason non-dog owners do not go as often. The dog owners allow their dogs to run free and defecate anywhere.

You may say that they pick up after them and I am sure the majority do, but can you honestly say that you pick up every little bit and what happens if your dog has, how can I put it, a tummy upset. They also urinate anywhere and everywhere. Maybe this will explain why a dog-free zone picnic area is a good idea.

Your dog may be a very friendly dog that might be very cute and nice for you and people who like dogs. But my son at the age of three was knocked over and licked in the face by a large very friendly dog, off the lead. His owner just kept saying 'he won't hurt you' but try telling a three year old that.

Following this incident he developed a terror of dogs so bad that at seven years old he jumped into the path of a car to avoid a dog on the pavement.

The fear was passed on to his younger sister and going out became almost impossible. The only thing we could do was to have a puppy of our own to get them used to dogs.

Now 45 years later history has repeated itself and my granddaughter is now terrified to go to the park due to an identical incident. To a non-dog lover every dog is a nuisance dog, even if they are on a lead.

J JAMES
Wordsley

Thank you for mom's home care

IT is difficult caring for a relative living and dying with cancer. My mom died last September having been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the previous six months.

She had good days when we could go out and about, and bad days when she needed to just sit and rest. The last five days were particularly hard when she was really poorly.

We could not have coped at home without the specialist care of the Dudley palliative team, who were exceptional.

From the carers who helped her to maintain her dignity to the district nurses and Macmillan nurses who controlled her pain. During the night Marie Curie nurses would sit with her, enabling me to have a reasonable night's sleep.

I cannot praise these angels enough for their dedication and compassion at one of the worst times in my life.

JACKIE FARRINGTON
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Write with care on high speed vehicles

THE January 28 edition of the Chronicle contained two detailed reports of horrific deaths and injuries caused by irresponsible drivers.

Your headline was 'Call for sports car road ban'. This featured a 21-year-old woman waiting at a bus stop killed by a driver as he raced at 100 mph in a 40 mph zone on Hagley Road West. He was racing against a friend in another car. One was a Mitsubishi Evolution, the other a BMW M3.

On page three you featured 'Speeding killer driver gets 40 months prison'. A Mercedes E250 driven at up to 93 mph, and at 61 mph at the moment of impact, killed a 39-year-old pedestrian.

Most folks would immediately demand that this kind of driving should be discouraged and drivers encouraged to behave more responsibly.

Yet in the same edition of the Chronicle the motoring correspondent writes in such a vein as to almost encourage high speeds in different models. Surely this could be construed as an invitation to risk death or serious injury to pedestrians and other road users.

PETER BIDDULPH
(address supplied)

Intelligent stop lights are needed

I have always thought road islands are better as there is always flow around them whereas with traffic lights I find I spend a lot of time waiting at a red light with no traffic coming across.

In this age when we are talking about driverless cars it must be possible to have more intelligent lights. I'm sure these have been around for some time, so why are they not used more extensively?

The main problem with the larger island is when the speed of the cars can be a problem to get on them. So how about speed bumps around larger islands?

It appears that those who manage our roads do not appear to know what they are doing. Here's some examples: £75,000 spent on traffic calming measures down Barrs Road – to no effect; time and money spent on Grange Road island – no better; two lanes into one at top of Mucklow Hill – chaos.

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Trevor inherited J.E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the on going funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage.

The office name was changed to incorporate the Hickton name as many local families were using the office who had before came to Hicktons in Cradley Heath at their time of need, they now have a closer location

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Ron Hadley, left and a young Maurice Oakley with the 1911 Austin town carriage which had been damaged in 1963



From left, Jack Jones, foreman at Brade-Leigh Products in Great Bridge with Maurice and Ronald and the Austin

Austin carriage revs back into Maurice's life half a century on

LITTLE could the young Maurice Oakley have known when he put the finishing touches to repairs to a bashed up 1911 Austin town carriage in May 1963 that he would get to see it again more than 50 years on.

Mind you, he could not have known either that a photograph showing him and his colleague Ron Hadley, who is on the left, working on the vehicle at Brade-Leigh Products at Great Bridge would re-emerge all those years later too.

"I couldn't believe it," said Mr Oakley, of Hamstead, Road, Great Barr. He remembers the repair job well. I was 23 then, and it had been in a smash, and came into Brade-Leigh Products to be repaired. It belonged to Longbridge [the Austin Motor Co], and was being transported from Longbridge, going to a show or something

MEMORY LANE

Report by Alex Ross

like that, and was on a low loader or a mid low loader. What I remember is that it went under a low bridge and it smashed the top over.

"It was hit at the top of the roof above the driver and it buckled part of the roof. One or both doors had to be repaired.

"I had to replace some broken and damaged timbers. I was a commercial body builder."

Mr Oakley, who lived in those days in Dudley Street, West Bromwich, and earned 6s 2d a week as a coach builder, recalls of the vehicle: "It's like what you would see on Downton Abbey, in which the posh lady went to town with the driver."

Not long ago he got to wondering what had become of the vehicle, and with a bit of searching on the internet tracked it down to the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, where it

is part of the museum collection. "It was hard to believe. My daughter got a number for Gaydon. I rang them up. There's a curator there, Steve Laing, and I was telling him about the car. He didn't know it had been in a smash in 1963 and looked all through his records and couldn't find anything about this car being damaged.

"He asked if there was any chance of me coming down and bringing any photos and literature, and that we could have a chat, which I did, about a month ago.

Mr Oakley was able to run his expert eye over the vehicle with which he had such a personal association. "It was very strange standing there. You can see part of it where it could have been worked on again to bring it up to scratch. I think they will probably leave it as it is rather than start disturbing things."

Mr Oakley, often known by his colleagues by the nickname 'Mossa', says he would love to hear from anybody he used to work with all those years ago. Mr Oakley is on 0121 358 1961.



Maurice comes face to face with the carriage 50 years later at the Heritage Motor Centre

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Parents jailed after baby had multiple fractures

A COUPLE have been jailed for child cruelty after their baby daughter was found to have terrible injuries.

The eight-month-old girl had seven fractured ribs and further fractures to both arms and a shoulder blade, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She also had a 'very large' number of bruises over her body and limbs, said Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting.

The shocking discovery was only made after her father Wayne Jones called 999 just after midnight on February 12, 2014, to complain that he was feeling suicidal.

The mother was not at the flat in Halesowen after leaving the little girl in his care while she went out for the night and she had not come back.

Pain

When the apparently well-dressed baby was lifted by the paramedics she appeared to be in pain and was taken to hospital along with Jones.

"He was discharged but the child was found to have a very large number of bruises to her body and limbs.

"Further investigation found the fractures," said Mr Linnemann.

Experts concluded the injuries had been inflicted on at least two separate occasions during the preceding two to seven weeks.

Both 27-year-old Jones and the child's mother - Abbie Jones, aged 19 - were arrested the same day.

"The cruelty must have been serious, whoever inflicted it," said the prosecutor.

A relative had previously noticed bruising to the child's body and forehead.

Abbie Jones admitted causing or allowing a child to suffer serious injury.



Wayne Jones - two and a half year term



Abbie Jones - jailed for 20 months

Her former partner Wayne Jones pleaded not guilty but was convicted of the offence after a trial.

It remains unclear who was directly responsible for the injuries to the child.

Mr Benjamin Nicholls, for Wayne Jones, told the court that the defendant was not a violent man and was not drunk when making the phone call that led to the plight of the child being uncovered.

Mr Mac Davies, for Abbie Jones said: "She is ashamed and remorseful."

Wayne Jones, who was living in

Northfield, Birmingham, was jailed for two and a half years.

Abbie Jones, who lives in Halesowen was sent to jail up for 20 months.

Failed

Judge Kristina Montgomery QC reminded the pair of the injuries sustained by the little girl.

She told them: "There were fractures to seven of her ribs, both upper arms and one of her shoulder blades.

"You both failed to protect her from those assaults."

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Jack builds Minecraft version of museum



Jack Probert, aged 8 from Dudley, created a Minecraft replica of the Black Country Living Museum

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD set himself the task of recreating the entire Black Country Living Museum using popular video game Minecraft.

Young Jack Probert cannot get enough of the region's premier heritage attraction and it has become favourite place for days out with the family. He also has a passion for the game Minecraft, allowing players to build anything they can imagine with blocks.

In the days following Christmas, with the museum closed to visitors, Jack decided he would build his own virtual replica museum using the game on his Xbox console.

The whole thing took the pair around 16 hours across four days but Alan, aged 44, admits it is Jack who is in charge of the build. "I'm a labourer," said Alan. "It is definitely Jack who has the final say."

Grassroots arts in a pub

ARTISTS, performers and film makers have been urged to get involved in an upcoming Black Country arts festival.

Cradley Heath Creative have organised the two-day event at the Hollybush Pub in Newtown Lane on April 16 and 17.

Last year the group ran a one-day festival in March called 'Locked In' which showcased work by artists, photographers, craft and film makers, and staged performances by musicians, poets and a play.

A total of 52 artists took part and around 250 people attended. This year there will be two stages, including the group's adapted horse trailer, called Oss Box.

Lizzy Lee, Cradley Heath Creative's secretary, said: "The aim is to get creative people, amateur and professional, making new work for the festival and responding to the theme 'Grassroots'. We chose the title because it takes in ideas of local identity, history, nature, family - what makes a community tick."

For more details visit the group's Facebook page, email lordhoft@gmail.com or phone 07952 563725.

Schools in London get £1,000 more for each pupil

SCHOOLS in the West Midlands are suffering from a funding shortfall of more than £1,000 per pupil compared with schools in London.

Research by accountants Bishop Fleming says the funding gap is the equivalent of employing 20 extra teachers per school.

Joe Scaife, lead partner at Bishop Fleming's educational team, said: "The biggest message from our latest report is the need for politicians to deliver a more level playing field."

"It is very difficult to justify the fact that 18 of the 20 top funded local authorities are London boroughs, and that there is a funding gap between London and the West Midlands of £1,003 per pupil. Indeed, our report reveals that West Midlands schools receive more than £100 per pupil less than the national average. Why should West Midlands schools, and their pupils, have to suffer such a disadvantage?"

Growth

The research also revealed the rapid growth of multi-academy trusts (MATs) across the UK. MATs are firms established to run a number of academies under a single board of directors. The system allows neighbouring schools to share resources while cutting costs.

According to the DfE around 65 per cent of all academies are now in academy chains. Five years ago two thirds of all academies were stand alone.

In the Black Country, the University of Wolverhampton-led Education Central MAT has 13 primary and secondary academies under its wing across Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Birmingham.

The region also has the Halesowen-based Windsor Academy Trust and Walsall's Matrix Academy Trust, which took over the running of the The Mirus Academy last year.

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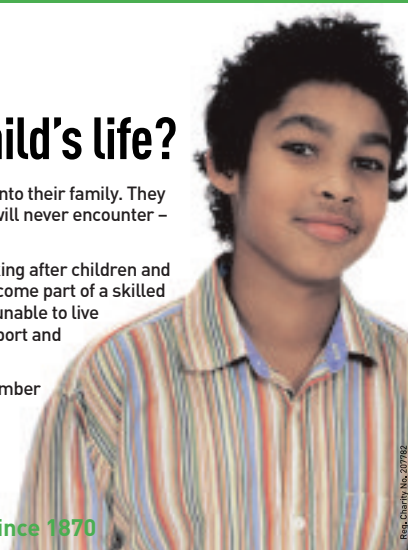
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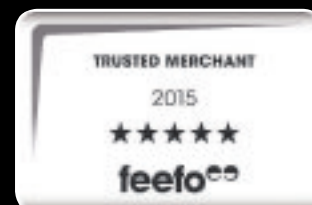
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Thief who targeted shoppers locked up

A PROLIFIC thief who preyed on female shoppers is back behind bars – and banned from Birmingham city centre for three years.

Callous pick-pocket Iona Stephenson stole handbags from a mum with a pushchair and woman out with a terminally ill relative. She was jailed for a year and three months at Birmingham Crown Court last Monday.

By Simon Stone

The career criminal has 70 convictions, including seven for theft, shoplifting and fraud since 2013 alone.

Police also managed to secure a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) to prevent the 52-year-old entering streets in the city centre. It stops her from going into areas inside the Queensway Ring Road including Bullring New Street station and Corporation Street for three years. She was also given a supervision order to include drug rehabilitation.

Stephenson, of Whitehall Road, Handsworth, stole a handbag which contained £170 from on top of a pushchair in Argos, Union Street, on 30 October last year. The court was told it had caused financial hardship for the family which includes an autistic child.

She also swiped a handbag with cash and personal belongings from a 64-year-old woman who was meeting a terminally-ill family member in the Square Peg, Corporation Street, on November 13 – leaving her with no car keys to get home. She admitted the two charges of theft.

Pe Michael Ebanks, from Birmingham West and Central, said: "Stephenson has been a persistent criminal over not just years, but decades, to fund her drug habit. "This was not the first time she has targeted a mum – who may have been distracted by her young child – and shows how far she will stoop. She has no regard for the victims she targeted or the trauma she caused them."

Savvy crews ensure friends reu-neigh-ted



A member of the fire crew from Tipton who found the horse wandering on Wednesbury Oak Road

A LOOSE horse was reunited with his owners, thanks to the power of social media.

Firefighters from Tipton Fire Station found the horse around 10am last Tuesday and shared a social media post including the above picture.

An hour and a half later they returned to check up on the animal and found his owners were there – after hearing of his plight online.

Crew commander Mark Avery said: "We were driving past Asda in Wednesbury Oak Road in Tipton and the horse was just wandering around."

"So we got out, walked him up to some open land by Asda and tied him up with a line off the truck."

"We gave him a bucket of water and then rang the RSPCA, but they wouldn't come out as he looked in a decent condition."

"We gave it an hour and a half and went back to make sure he was ok then his owners turned up. It really shows the power of social media and how good it can be for us."

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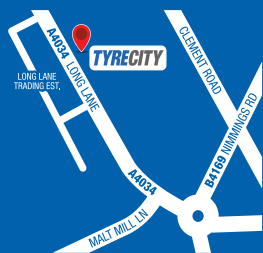


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Pair chippie in to raise funds for little girl's op

A LITTLE girl with cerebral palsy is a step closer to a potentially life-changing operation thanks to help from fundraisers in the Black Country

Born 11 weeks premature and weighing just 3lb 2oz, Georgie Gibbs was diagnosed with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy when a year old.

Now aged three, Georgie has to walk with splints attached to her legs or with a walking frame. She has daily exercises to relax her muscles.

Now her family in Worcester is fundraising for an operation in America, which will cost around £65,000 and is aimed at helping Georgie walk unaided.

Coseley father and son Archie and Steve Payton, aged 76 and 54, decided to help after they met Georgie's family at a car boot sale.

The Paytons, along with their local chippy Chipton Fryer & Cafe, on Bloomfield Road, Tipton, have raised more than £1,000.

The family is waiting to hear from officials at NHS England's Commissioning through Evaluation Programme, to find out if Georgie can have the operation in the UK.

Georgie's mother Clare, 41, said: "We'll find out in March if we can go ahead with having the operation in this country, but if not we have an April 18 confirmed date for America. Georgie is a determined little soul and we will fight tooth and nail either way for her to have the operation." Archie and Steve said Georgie had 'stolen their hearts'. Archie added: "We'll move heaven and earth to help that little girl."

To help visit www.gofundme.com/help-georgie



Georgie with mother Clare Gibbs with fundraisers Steve (left) and Archie Payton and Bunty Singh-Binning

Go behind scenes at Holden's Brewery

ALE fans can go behind the scenes at a landmark Black Country brewery when Holden's in Woodsetton offers hour-long tours on the first Saturday of each month in April, May and June.

The tours begin from the Holden's bottle shop off Sedgley Road and finish with a session in Holden's new tasting room. There are up to a dozen places on each tour and they cost £12.50 per person.

Tours were started after the completion of the modernisation of the brewery during its centenary year of 2015. Tours can be booked by calling 01902 880051.

The brewery's famous beers include Black Country Bitter, Black Country Special Bitter, Black Country Mild, and Golden Glow.

The family's career in brewing began when Edwin Holden and his wife Lucy Blanche took over the Britannia Inn in Netherton, before moving to the Park Inn where brewing equipment left by previous owners inspired Edwin to make his own beer, which became popular throughout the Black Country. The brewery also has a popular line of its own bottled beer.

£7.6m fund for flagship project to boost skills

THE Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has approved £7.6m funding for the flagship Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills, which will open for business in 2017.

The funding has been allocated through the LEP's Growth Deal which is transforming the Black Country.

The Elite Centre will function as an employer-led training facility for the Black Country, designed to improve productivity and growth in the high value manufacturing (HVM) sector.

The Black Country LEP has been instrumental in ensuring the project will deliver provision that doesn't currently exist in the Black Country.

The LEP has brought together partners from the HVM sector and education including the University of Wolverhampton, Dudley College, Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers.

Specialist

The partners are investing an additional £4.15m into the centre bringing the total project value to £11.75m. The Elite Centre will provide specialist training in toolmaking; foundry; patternmaking; metalforming; forging; advanced CNC; manufacturing management, leadership and project management. The training will be delivered through both apprenticeships and short courses.

The Elite Centre will be established as a non-profit making organisation with an industry-led board of directors. The project will be led by the University of Wolverhampton. The Elite Centre will follow a 'hub and spoke' model with equipment and facilities being installed across four sites in the Black Country, which will re-generate two brown-



LEP chairman Stewart Towe

field sites. The Elite Centre is anticipated to become the new Institute of Technology in the Black Country. The hub will be the 800 sq m regeneration of the university's Springfield Brewery site in Wolverhampton.

The 'foundry and patternmaking spoke' will be located on a site adjacent to an existing foundry in Dudley Port.

Metal joining and advanced machining training will be covered by the installation of new equipment and the use of existing equipment at the recently opened Dudley Advance at Dudley College.

Stewart Towe, chairman of the Black Country LEP, said: "This approval of funding is fantastic news for the high value manufacturing sector in the Black Country."

"Through the Elite Centre the LEP will be able to remove barriers to business growth by supporting employers in key industry sub-sectors to invest in skills."

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Choral singers call

ST Paul's Church in Blackheath is looking for singers to join its choir for a performance of John Rutter's Requiem on Good Friday.

Singers are asked to attend Friday rehearsals at the Long Lane church, starting on February 12 at 7pm. Musical director Su Dymond is organising the performance which will take place at the church on March 25 at 7.30pm.

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A state-of-the-art gym is among the facilities available for people



Plush seating and facilities in the reception area at the YMCA



The impressive finished new YMCA building, in West Bromwich



CEO Steve Clay, inside the amenity which has taken seven years to build



The lounge area, which is used for people to take stock and relax



Special guests at the official opening, try out the facilities in the cafe area

£9m YMCA opens up

A new £9.5million YMCA centre has been unveiled in the Black Country – seven years after building work started.

The facility in Carter's Green is home to 96 housing units for vulnerable adults, a £200,000 gym, youth zone, fitness and wellbeing centre and enterprise, business and education facilities.

Work on the site started in 2008. Parts of the old building have been refurbished and new parts have also been built. It also features a new not-for-profit coffee shop called Cielo, who has been co-founded by Linda and Nick Castle.

The first phase of the YMCA Western Gateway

scheme was completed in September 2011 which saw the Children and Family Centre Nursery opened.

Steve Clay, chief executive officer at YMCA Black Country, said: "It feels fantastic that the work has finally been completed after what has been a long journey which has involved many twists and turns.

"We have attempted to offer a wide variation of top of the range services in a friendly environment.

"We had three aims with this transformation – to completely revamp the community services we offer, for the quality of that service to be high in every aspect of what we do and for the building to be iconic, catch peoples attention and utilise its location as a gateway into the town centre. I'm very happy to say we've more than achieved all three goals."

The YMCA has operated in West Bromwich for more than 127 years.

Its first premises were built in St Michael Street in 1888 before relocating to Carter's Green in the 1960s.

Clive Jessup, whose company Jessup Brothers helped complete building work, said: "Jessup became involved in the eleventh hour of the scheme but as soon as I saw this opportunity I knew it had the team to deliver. We would like to thank all the local suppliers as this absolutely amazes me. It really is a collaboration and a thank you to all the hard work everybody has done. YMCA have been a very helpful and understanding client. If this transformation doesn't inspire the people of West Bromwich, then I don't know what will."

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We must learn from Holocaust – survivor

DUDLEY'S annual Holocaust memorial event listened to an address by 85-year-old survivor Susan Pollack.

Hungarian Jew Mrs Pollack said her time in Auschwitz-Birkenau and marching to Bergen-Belsen had totally dehumanised her. "I was a robot, I had no emotions," she said.

Mrs Pollack and her family were ordered to leave their home in April 1944. She, her brother and their mother were sent to a ghetto, then an internment camp. In May 1944, they were taken by rail cattle truck to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Her mother was sent directly to the gas chambers, while the 13-year-old survived by lying about her age – stating she was 15.

She remained in the camp for around 10 weeks before being sent to Germany to work as a slave labourer in an armaments factory. With the Allies advancing, the prisoners were forced on a death march to Bergen-Belsen.

On April 15, 1945, Mrs Pollack was liberated by the British Army. She said the 'gentle' nature of the British soldier who picked her off the floor in Belsen reminded her of the good side of humanity.

Mrs Pollack said it was important

people continue to remember what happened during the Holocaust to ensure it cannot happen again.

She said: "We can't change the past but we can learn lessons from the persecution and killing that took place in Europe. People need to make a strong commitment that we won't allow it to take place again."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said Mrs Pollack's presence was 'humbling and inspirational'.

Another survivor Mindu Hornick, aged 86, last week told students at Joseph Leckie Academy in Walsall that as a 12-year-old on arriving at Auschwitz, as she looked at the corpses, starving prisoners and could smell burning bodies, she thought she had entered hell itself.

Leaving her happy childhood in Czechoslovakia, Mindu, along with her mother, sister and two brothers, was sent to the concentration camp by the Nazis.

While she and her 14-year-old sister Eva would survive, Mindu, who now lives in Edgbaston, would never see her mother and brothers again.

She revealed that she had returned to the camp two years ago for a memorial service which provided 'some kind of closure'.



Holocaust survivor Susan Pollack told a Dudley audience about her experiences in the Nazi death camps

Paramedics not on board for thousands of emergency calls

PARAMEDICS were not on board emergency vehicles sent to thousands of 999 calls across the Black Country during the past four years, figures reveal.

Instead, ambulance technicians or emergency care assistants – both less qualified – attended.

Figures show that, in total, paramedics didn't attend 23,912 call-outs during the period. This includes 86 'red 1' emergencies, for patients who have suffered cardiac arrest or who have stopped breathing.

West Midlands Ambulance Service bosses have recently launched a recruitment drive to find 150 student paramedics.

During the past 12 months, there were some 3,674 emergency call outs in the Black County not attend by paramedics.

Defended

The ambulance service has defended the figures, saying these 23,912 call outs over four years make up just 1.8 per cent of the total call outs.

Spokesman Claire Brown said: "West Midlands Ambulance Service is the best performing ambulance service in the country, with all staff doing a fantastic job responding to an average of 3,000 emergency calls a day around the region.

"As a trust we have the highest ratio of paramedics on the frontline of any UK ambulance service and we are fully committed to achieving our ambition of having a paramedic on every emergency vehicle. All our staff are developed and trained to a high standard, which means we continue to provide the very best care to patients."

Police boss wants fairer deal from Whitehall

POLICE and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson urged the Government to give West Midlands Police a 'fairer deal' on funding.

The force is closing 13 stations as part of wider cuts in the face of a £2.5 million drop in funding this year – including Halesowen police station in January next year..

A new police funding scheme, which will determine how much the force gets from Whitehall next year, is being reviewed. Mr Jamieson said he hoped the revised deal would ease the financial pressure on the force.

Changed

West Midlands Police received £452.6m in government funding last year but officials claim the force will receive £450.1m this year.

A spokesman for Mr Jamieson said: "The funding formula for police forces has not changed.

"The Government abandoned changes to the way in which police forces are funded, after a botched process in which the Home Office made serious errors.

"The funding formula is set to be reviewed again this year. In the meantime, West Midlands Police are still waiting for a fairer deal from the Government.

"The funding that West Midlands Police receives from government will be £2.5m lower this year than it was last year."

Mr Jamieson added: "One thing is clear, funding has not been protected, the Government wants me to raise the council tax to fill the gap.

"Theresa May has written to Police and Crime Commissioner's and admitted that there is a 1.3 per cent cut in funding to local police forces.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julian Knight MP and Mike Wood MP for their contributions



Commissioner Jamieson

to the Westminster Hall debate on 'Funding for West Midlands Police' and their calls for there to be greater flexibility on council tax increases.

"The Chancellor has clearly listened to them and duly given the powers to PCCs to raise council tax by higher amounts than before."

The announcement police stations across the force area, including 13 in the Black Country, would close sparked concerns among community leaders.

Among the opponents was Dudley South MP Mike Wood who urged the force to rethink plans to shut stations in his constituency.

In Wolverhampton, Heath Town and Graiseley have shut with more to follow in the city, alongside others in Great Barr and Netherton. Dudley station will go on August 31 and King'swinford police station is expected to close within the next 18 months.

A total of 16 police bases in Birmingham are to close.

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Give emotional music a Brakes

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE seventh studio album in ten years from Turin Brakes, *Lost Property*, finds the quartet producing sophisticated, emotional music with a hint of West Coast rock and a whole heap of honesty.

The distinctive voice of Olly Knights holds the attention. Highlights include Brighter Than The Dark, Jump Start and the gently stirring anthems Hope We Make It and Save You.

Catch Turin Brakes at Birmingham's Glee Club on March 8.

Curve Of The Earth is the most commercial album yet from London band **Mystery Jets**. It's already their most successful and deservedly so because after ten years and six albums they have crafted a lithe, sleek sound that melds hints of psychedelic rock with a radio-friendly pop sensibility.

Singer Blaine Harrison is at his best, even exercising a soulful falsetto on the hazy *Midnight's Mirror*.

A cosmic theme runs through many of the songs including the blissed-out Kinks-ish *Saturnine* and one of the other highlights, *1985*, which starts as a delicate piano ballad and explodes with a fuzzy guitar riff that reaches for the stars.

Mystery Jets have a gig at the O2 Institute in Digbeth, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 18, with support from 17-year-old Declan McKenna.

Australian singer and songwriter **Sia Furler**, your former Jamiroquai backing singer and frontwoman for 90s outfit Zero 7, originally found success writing songs for such as Beyonce, Rihanna and Christina Aguilera.



Seven studio albums in ten years and Turin Brakes are maturing

Then in 2014 she had a massive hit in her own right with *Chandelier* and, while apparently shunning celebrity by hiding her face, got a lot more attention. Her sixth solo album *1000 Forms of Fear* was the breakthrough because she had cannily held back some of her best songs for herself.

But on her latest, **This Is Acting**, the 40-year-old's songs are all co-written with others and, frankly, no amount of power or vocal gymnastics can hide the fact that they sound like rejects. The opening salvo, *Bird Set Free* and *Alive*, may have been intended for Adele but I can see why she would knock back such fodder. We also get Sia sounding like a lightweight Lady Gaga on *Move Your Body*, Rihanna-like on *Cheap Thrills* or Beyonce-lite on *Sweet Design*. It's production line pop/R&B, kind of faceless.

Singer Ian Astbury and riff master Billy Duffy sometimes conjure their

old swagger on **The Cult's** tenth studio album, **Hidden City**, particularly on *Hinterland*, *Dance The Night*, *Goat* and *Heathens*. The goth rockers are at Birmingham's O2 Institute on March 1.

Seattle rockers **Night Beats** bring classic garage rock roaring into the 21st century with guitars that fuzz, twang and wail, and plenty of outlaw attitude, on **Who Sold My Generation**.

Highlights include the recent single *No Cops*, plus *Power Child*, *Sunday Mourning* and *Burn to Breathe* from a band that draw on The Stooges, The Cramps, 60s Dylan and The Yardbirds.

If the nine tracks on 4½ are Porcupine Tree mainman **Steven Wilson's** leftovers between his fourth and fifth albums, then they are pretty much haute cuisine. The prog rock singer/songwriter's 38-minute album, including a couple of instrumentals, is richly textured and, for the uninitiated, sometimes recalls early Genesis.

A man for all seasons



Violin and Villa home shirt, it could only be Nigel Kennedy, who made a triumphant return to Symphony Hall and

Nigel Kennedy, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
NOT many classical concerts start with a cry of 'Up the Villa' from the audience. Not even in Birmingham.

But if the violinist happens to be the world's most famous Aston Villa fan (sorry, Your Highness), then different rules apply.

Even Villa's 4-0 drubbing at home by Manchester City in the FA Cup the day before couldn't dampen Nigel Kennedy's enthusiasm. I think I spied the Villa away shirt under his over-sized blazer when he kicked off the first half of his three-hour concert, and he certainly had the claret and blue shirt on for the second, emblazoned with the player's name *Abonglahor*. Certainly most of the banter with the audience was about his Villa obsession, including his desire to see new owners at the helm.

Football chat in a prestigious concert hall, nothing would please the former wunderkind of classical music more.

He was the spiky-haired young man who shocked the classic world with his irreverent attitude, virtuoso ability and by selling three million copies of his

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

1989 recording of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. That gave him rock star status.

He still has spiky hair, a dubious taste in clothes (day-glo yellow trainers, baggy jeans and what appeared to be a jacket inspired by a bin bag), clowns around and fist-bumps his fellow musicians. But at 59 his ability is better than ever. He is even prepared to revisit *The Four Seasons*, albeit with a twist.

The first half saw Kennedy play his own compositions, a series called *Dedications* inspired and in tribute to Kennedy's musical heroes. These include Polish jazz guitarist Jarek Smietana (whose daughter Alicja Smietana is a violinist in Kennedy's band), violinists Stephane Grappelli and Isaac Stern, and the still living US fiddle player Mark O'Connor.

These pieces were blends of jazz, folk and rock placed within a classical context, and they worked superbly. This was partly because Kennedy's

restless energy and infectious enthusiasm spread to his entire ensemble of top-notch musicians from the jazz and classical scenes across Europe.

Whether classic or contemporary, Kennedy stamps his foot and tends to yell 'yeah' like he is at a hoe-down and he cajoles, teases and challenges the musicians to keep up with him, which made for some dazzling duels.

The *Four Seasons* also got jazz textures in the star violinist's reworking, entitled *The New Four Seasons*. I don't know if they really added anything to Vivaldi's great work but they didn't detract from it. He remained true to the spirit of the original work, with all Vivaldi's verve intact. Kennedy played with such intensity that you could afterwards see the hairs hanging from his worn bow. He showed the same vigour which made his name more than a quarter of a century ago.

He ended the night with an elegiac piece dedicated to Sir Terry Wogan (who put him on TV) and Polish jazz saxophonist Janusz Muniak, both of whom had died earlier in the day. It was a sombre end to a night of joyous and superlative musicianship from the violin man for all seasons.

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Beginning with a cross-country trail and ending at the Killing Fields, participants risk dehydration, hypothermia, electric shocks, sprains and broken bones. So what better way to prove my toughness to my colleagues than by signing up. My announcement was met with laughs. Although I regularly go to the gym and run, I'm the first to admit that I'm no 'tough guy'.

Last minute gym sessions and six mile cross-country runs followed in the days before the challenge to the point I dared to claim I was prepared. And it all started so easily. Two miles in – a brisk jog with obstacles to leap over and crawl under – it was going so well, only a few beads of sweat came down my forehead and a splattering of mud over my legs.

But oh no. This country trail was the calm before the storm. It began with the Colditz Wars. A wooden structure webbed with rope with only one way to get past it – pull, drag and haul yourself to the top before tumbling down the other side. Then a leap through burning bales of hay followed by crawling through a seemingly endless line of tyres. This was just the beginning to my first Tough Guy – I'd only just entered the Killing Fields. Claustrophobic? The Underground Interrogation Pits and Vitecong Tunnels would be your worst nightmare. I entered the

dark, murky underground of the pits, lying on my front and moved forward slowly, carefully avoiding hanging wires each producing an electric shock when touched.

Then, still in the pitch black, it was on to the tunnels. Long concrete cylinders I somehow managed to haul myself through, partly thanks to people around me pushing and shoving me. On I plodded, by now my body smeared in mud and sweat, to the Paradise Climb, anything but paradise. A 50ft high climb before a scary walk on cargo net while trying not to peer down at the ground far below.

Scrambling

Worse was round the corner – an ice cold man-made lake. I swam ahead to a shallower part of the lake where huge logs were placed across the water surface. This was the Death Plunge. I was to now duck my whole body under the water again and again.

Scrambling out of the lake The Brandenburg Wall stood high in front of me – a 40ft near vertical climb. But two more lakes – the North Face Lake and Dragons Pool – followed.

It was the worst obstacle which had been saved till last. I glided along the Green Rolling Hills before faced with Viagra Falls. Leaping into a deep lake, I then clambered up a steep hill beneath hanging electric eels – but by this point I didn't care.

One electric shock after another as I got to the peak before almost falling down the other side past the finish line and onto a bale of hay. I collapsed in the make-shift changing area. My body was aching all over. But I found the energy to take a selfie with my medal. Done, dusted. I'd conquered Tough Guy!



Proud and relieved – reporter Alex Ross with his medal

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www.sandwell.gov.uk/holidays

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fast the ticket

Oh What a Night!

Jersey Boys comes to
Wolverhampton – Page 23



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Scary fairy

Ballet – Page 23

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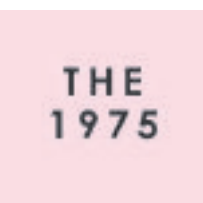
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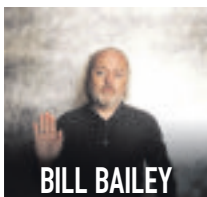
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Alexander Armstrong



Tomorrow, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
The much-loved presenter of Pointless, Alexander Armstrong, is returning to his roots as a classically trained musician and is set to delight in his first concert tour.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Of Mice And Men



Tonight - February 13
The Rep, B'ham
The acclaimed production of John Steinbeck's drama set during America's Great Depression, directed by Roxana Silbert, returns by popular demand, this time with a new cast.
Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Ken Dodd



Sunday, 7pm
Prince Of Wales, Cannock
A true British institution, Ken Dodd has been making people laugh for decades. His stand-up shows are the stuff of legend, often going on well past midnight.
Visit www.wlct.org/cannock

Private Lives



Monday - Feb 13
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
A revival of Noel Coward's sophisticated comedy stars Tom Chambers in the 1930s story about divorcees who meet on honeymoon with new spouses.
Visit www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham

POP & ROCK

Special Kinda Madness: Specials & Madness Tribute Band
Sat at 8.55pm, £8
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Thu at 7.30pm
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

SayWeCanFly
Sat at 6pm - 10pm
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Loyle Carner
Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Montparnasse
Sat at 8pm
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Telegram
Thu at 7pm - 11pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Bowling For Soup
Sat at 7pm, £20
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Style Councillors
Sat at 7pm
The RoadHouse Birmingham, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

The Crookes
Fri at 7pm
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Soufly
Sun at 7pm
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Game: Documentary 2 Tour
Mon at 7pm
O2 Academy Birmingham, 1 B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Temple Brothers: Everly Brothers Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Grouper
Fri at 9.30pm, Sat at 9.30pm
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Spring King
Thu at 7.30pm - 10.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Joe Jackson
Thu at 7pm - 11pm
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Augustana
Sat at 7pm
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Jack Jones: A Celebration Of 100 Years Of Frank Sinatra
Fri at 7.30pm
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Danny Bryant
Wed at 7.30pm
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

U2 2:U2 Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

The Winery Dogs
Fri at 7pm - 11pm
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Alexandra Jayne
Tue at 8.30pm
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

The Villagers
Sun at 7pm - 11.30pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

BLUES & JAZZ

The Subs
Thu at 9.30pm
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Jarrold Dickenson
Thu at 7.45pm - 11pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

CBSO 2015-16: Beethoven Piano Concertos
Wed at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Ex Cathedra: I Was Glad
Sun at 4pm - 6pm, £9.50 - £35
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Guitar Concert
Fri at 1.10pm
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Thomas Trotter
Mon at 1pm
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Alexander Armstrong: A Year Of Songs
Fri at 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Family Film Favourites
Sun at 2.30pm, £10
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

BICS 2015/16 Maria Joao Pires In Recital
Thu at 7.30pm
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Horrible Histories: Groovy Greeks
Sat at 10.30am
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Out Of Chaos: Macbeth
Thu at 8pm
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?
Tue - Thu at 7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Gruffalo's Child
Fri at 10.30am, 1.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Of Mice And Men
Tue - Thu at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 2pm, 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Freezin
Sat at 7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Gary Clarke Company: Coal
Thu at 8pm - 10pm, £8 - £12
DanceXchange, Birmingham, B5 4TB.
Call 441902566159

Jack And The Beanstalk
Fri at 11am, 3pm, Sat at 1pm
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Private Lives
Mon - Thu at 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Simply The Best Divas
Sun at 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Solid Life Of Sugar Water
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 2.30pm - 8pm
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £18.50 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet And Royal Ballet Sinfonia
Sat at 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Motionhouse: Broken
Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

An Inspector Calls
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £11.75 - £27.75
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Stags And Hens
Thu at 7.30pm
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

The Crows Plucked Your Sinews
Tue - Thu at 8pm
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Jersey Boys
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £27.50 - £49.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Tantalise #Take2 - The Ultimate Ladies Night
Fri - Sat at 8pm - 3am
Quantum Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

COMEDY

Juice Comedy
Fri at 7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Ken Dodd
Sun at 7pm
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Tony Law: Frillemorphosis
Thu at 7pm
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Gary Delaney
Sun at 8pm - 11pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

CLUBBING

Nicolas Lutz & Francesco Del Garda
Sat - Sun at 10pm - 6am
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Marcia Carr & E Double D
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 2am
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Vertigo
Sat at 9pm
The Victoria, Birmingham, B1 1BN. Call 0121 633 9439

Keeping It Souful
Fri - Sat at 9pm - 2am, £
The Victoria, Birmingham, B1 1BN. Call 0121 633 9439

Propaganda
Fri - Sat at 10.30pm - 3.30am
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Highgrade
Fri - Sat at 10.30pm - 5am
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Leftfoot Presents Mala At Hare And Hounds
Fri - Sat at 9pm - 3am
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Sweat
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Hospitality
Sat - Sun at 10pm - 6am
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

OTHER EVENTS

Jewellery & Watch Birmingham
Sun - Thu at 9am - 4pm, Free
The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Spring Fair
Sun at 9am - 4pm, Free
The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

The Jersey Boys are back in town

ONE of the West End's biggest hits of recent years, Jersey Boys, is at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, February 20.

Whilst still packing them into the Piccadilly Theatre in London, the touring production about the career of American pop group The Four Seasons, starring Matt Corner as Frankie Valli, is a surefire crowd-pleaser.

Full of Four Seasons hits from the golden era of pop in the 1960s and 70s, it also pulls no punches in its story about how a bunch of New Jersey boys who seemed destined to become crooks and gangsters took the music world by storm, but at some considerable personal cost.

Worldwide

Sam Ferriday will play Bob Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths is Nick Massi and Stephen Webb is Tommy DeVito, all continuing in their roles from previous tour dates. Michael Pickering will join the cast to play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances.

Also joining the touring cast will be Mark Heenehan as Gyp DeCarlo, Joel Elferink as Bob Crewe, Joe Maxwell as Norm Waxman and Samantha Hull as Francine.

Jersey Boys has been seen by more 22 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of London's most popular shows. It was also turned into a movie by actor/director Clint Eastwood.

The Four Seasons sold 100 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30. The show includes all the



Sam Ferriday, Stephen Webb, Matt Corner and Lewis Griffiths in Jersey Boys

major hits, including Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Beggin', Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back To You, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Written by Marshall Brickman and Rick Ellice, Jersey Boys has won Olivier and Tony awards for Best New Musical, among 57 major awards worldwide.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk for further details or call the box office on 01902 429 212.

Ballet gets a revamp-ire

A GOTHIC romance from the choreographer who created the male dancers' Swan Lake and passionate ballet The Car Man is set to thrill audiences at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday.

Danced to the music of Tchaikovsky, Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty takes the familiar fairy story and twists it into a dazzling whirl of punk fairies and vampires. It goes from the opulent Edwardian era to modern day, delivered with irreverent humour and lots of style and vigour.

Created for his New Adventures company's 25th birthday in 2012, Sleeping Beauty was a hit at the Hippodrome a year later and this revival comes to Birmingham after a successful run at London Sadler's Wells.

Returning to the central role of Aurora is rising star Ashley Shaw, a role shared with Cordelia Braithwaite in her first principal role with New Adventures. Her hero Leo will once again be played by Bromsgrove-born dancer Chris Trenfield and Dominic North, who has appeared in more New Adventures productions than any other dancer. North was nominated as Outstanding Male Dancer at The National Dance Awards for his performance as Edward Scissorhands.

The twin roles of Dark Fairy Carabosse and her sinister son Caradoc will be shared by two of New Adventures' most charismatic performers, Adam Maskell and Tom Clark, the latter making his debut in a principal role.

For more information see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or for tickets call 0844 338 5000.

Dance highlights at Symphony Hall

THE Royal Ballet Sinfonia takes centre stage at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday in an evening celebrating classic balletic highlights.

Compered by Birmingham Royal Ballet's director David Bintley, the evening will include music and dance excerpts from some of the company's most famous productions, such as David Bintley's The Seasons, Frederick Ashton's The Dream, and Kenneth Macmillan's Romeo and Juliet. The latter is being performed at Birmingham Hippodrome later this month.

The evening will also include a performance by students from Birmingham's Elmhurst School for Dance. See www.thsh.co.uk

All-star jazz band in Art Blakey tribute

MARKING the passing of jazz great Art Blakey 25 years ago, saxophonist Jean Toussaint brings his Roots and Herbs combo to celebrate and explore the music of the Blue Note legend and his Jazz Messengers.

The gig at Wolverhampton University's Arena venue tomorrow night (Fri) will feature an all-star line-up of trombonist Dennis Rollins, pianist Julian Joseph, trumpeter Byron Wallen, Daniel Casimir on bass and drummer Shane Forbes. See the arena@wlv.ac.uk website.

That's the same night veteran crooner Jack Jones performs his Jack Sings Frank tribute to Sinatra at the Symphony Hall.

US rock invasion at city gig venues

GIG highlights include Nashville rockers The Cadillac Three at Digbeth's O2 Institute tonight (Thu), with metal super-group The Winery Dogs at the same venue tomorrow night.

Texan rockers Bowling For Soup play Brum's O2 Academy on Saturday. Arizona metal outfit Soufly are at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Sunday. Mid-80s drummer with punk legends The Ramones, Richie Ramone, has a gig at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Monday.

London rapper Loyle Carner plays the Hare And Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday, the same night fuzz rockers Ulrika Spacek are in the other room.

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CHOICE



John Inverdale

Live Six Nations Rugby Union (BBC1, 4.30pm)
Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.50pm). John Inverdale is at Murrayfield to introduce coverage of the Calcutta Cup tie, as the rivals play their first match of this year's tournament. Scotland's record in this fixture in recent years is quite dismal, but this year they can enter the encounter with confidence following a much-improved showing at the 2015 World Cup and the undoubted progress made under coach Vern Cotter. England, in contrast, are starting over again following their early exit from that tournament, which resulted in Eddie Jones taking over as coach from Stuart Lancaster, and Jones has named an exciting, new-look squad captained by Dylan Hartley.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking.** (R) **12.00 BBC News; Weather.** **12.10 Football Focus.** **12.50 Saturday Sportsday.** **1.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** France v Italy (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.50pm). **6.55 BBC News.** **7.05 Regional Programme.** **7.15 The Voice UK.** Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson appraise the talents of more would-be stars as the spinning-chair singing contest continues. As the fifth set of "blind auditions" gets under way, Vangelis from London performs a rendition of the Culture Club hit *Do You Really Want to Hurt Me*. The coaches also assess the talents of Mari Marli, who sings Will.i.am's own *Bang Bang*, and 19-year-old Durham busker Chloe Castro. Plus, four-time Britain's Strongest Woman winner Geirna Magnusson takes to the stage. **8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** New series. Shane Richie returns with the dream prize game show, giving more couples a chance to pick a selection of perfect rewards to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. The contest begins as Phil and Sian from Liverpool attempt to win their chosen items. Plus, Ronan Keating performs in the studio, and joins Gabby Roslin to push the button in the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws. **9.20 Casualty.** Ethan has managed to put aside his dissatisfaction with NHS restrictions, and is back in full swing in the ED. The development comes as welcome news for Lily, and the pair join forces to help a girl with autism get the family support she desperately needs. However, just as Ethan begins to settle back down to work, it appears his world is about to be shaken to its core. **10.10 BBC News; Weather.** **10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update. **11.55 Race to Super Bowl 50.** **12.25 Film:** *Man of the Year*. (2006) **2.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.20 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 Film: *Tension at Table Rock*. (1956) **7.45 Film: *The Red Beret*. (1953) **9.10 Animal Park.** (R) **10.10 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.10 Natural World.** (R) **12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts.** (R) **12.45 Rick Stein's India.** (R) **1.45 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman.** (R) **2.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.30 Flog It!** (R) **4.30 Final Score.** **5.25 Earth's Greatest Spectacles.** (R) **6.25 Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Ashty-Hawkins family give up their 21st century technology and travel back in time to discover the radical transformation of our leisure time since 1950. Guided by presenter Giles Coren and social historian Polly Russell, the family's experience is underpinned by The Family Expenditure Survey, a government study which ran from the 1950s through to 1999. In the first episode, dad Rob finds out that he's expected to be handy with a tool kit, while mum Steph comes to terms with all the washing, cooking and cleaning expected of a 1950s housewife. Meanwhile, 16-year-old Daisy learns ballroom dancing courtesy of Angela Rippon, and 12-year-old Seth discovers the great outdoors. (R) **7.25 King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy.** Part two of two. Queen Mary's rise to the throne from a comparatively low position within the royal hierarchy, after being selected for the role by Queen Victoria. (R) **8.25 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring has too much to drink during a weekend course with Captain Square, but still manages to save Jonesy's life. (R) **9.00 The Real Marigold Hotel.** The group settle into life in their base in Jaipur, India, as Wayne Sleep and Bobby George have a cut-throat shave and a trip to the Taj Mahal brings Miriam Margolyes to tears. (R) **10.00 Live at the Apollo.** Romesh Ranganathan comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Jason Byrne and Stewart Francis. (R) **10.45 Insert Name Here.** (R) **11.15 Film:** *Tim*. (1979) **1.00 Film: *My Afternoons with Marguerite*. (2010) **2.15 This Is BBC Two.******

ITV

6.00 CITV: *Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.* **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories:** *Share a Story.* (R) **7.05 Sooty.** (R) **7.15 Super 4.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** *Scrambled!* **7.35 Scrambled! *Mr Bear: The Animated Series.* (R) **7.50 Scrambled! *Horrid Henry.* (R) **8.10 Scrambled! *Nerds & Monsters.* **8.30 Scrambled! *Jessie.* **9.05 Scrambled! *The Tom & Jerry Show.* (R) **9.25 TV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** **12.15 TV News; Weather.** **12.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** **1.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.25 Tipping Point.** (R) **3.30 Doc Martin.** (R) **4.30 The Martin Lewis Money Show.** (R) **5.00 The Chase.** (R) **6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.15 ITV News; Weather.** **6.30 New You've Been Framed!** More comical mishaps, including a building crushing a luxury sports car and a tree that manages to topple a motorcyclist. **7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the second semi-final, challenging more returning contestants to face the infamous obstacle course once again. **8.00 Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness provides four more potential suitors for his 30 single ladies. This time, the men braving the "love lift" are James, a commodities trader from Leeds, Leamington Spa student Ben, Manchester-based circus performer Josh and Ian, a digital developer from Portsmouth. As ever, the would-be Romeos must present themselves to female panel in the hope that they'll keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy provides an update from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos. **9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists. **10.20 ITV News; Weather.** **10.40 Film:** *Jurassic Park III.* (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni. **12.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightline.************

CHANNEL 4

8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00 The Morning Line.** **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales go to Ireland and travel along the Shannon Erne Waterway, a canal linking the North to the South. Along the way, they try some traditional dancing and folk singing, visit historic sites including Crom Castle and Bloody Pass, and meet a genealogist with a fascinating story to tell. Last in the series. (R) **8.00 Walking Through Time.** Palaeontologist Dr Tori Herridge investigates the natural disaster that destroyed the massive chalk land-bridge that once connected Britain to continental Europe 450,000 years ago. Beginning her inquiries in Norfolk, she discovers what life was like before the ancient mega-flood, where she meets an amateur palaeontologist who uncovered the biggest mammoth skeleton ever found, and examines the 850,000-year-old footprints of an early human family perfectly preserved in prehistoric mud. She then travels to Kent and the white cliffs of Dover to detail how the mega-flood happened, joining an "oceanographic" expedition seeking to document evidence of this cataclysm found on the bed of the English Channel. **9.00 Film: Prisoners.** (2013) Premiere. Police question a man in relation to the disappearance of two children, but can find no evidence of wrongdoing. However, the distraught father of one of the missing youngsters is not convinced of his innocence, and kidnaps the suspect to force him into a confession. Thriller, starring Hugh Jackman. **12.00 Film:** *Friday the 13th.* (2009) **1.45 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.55 Undercover Boss Canada.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **9.30 The Saturday Show.** **11.35 Funnies Falls, Falls & Flops.** (R) **12.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.00 Now That's Funny!** (R) **3.00 Benefits, Babies & Jail.** (R) **4.00 Benefits: Can't Work Won't Work.** (R) **5.00 Benefits: 19 Kids and Counting the Cost.** (R) **6.00 Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim.** Documentary following former Corrie star Bruce Jones (Les Battersby) and one-time Big Brother contestant Lisa Appleton, who have gone from signing autographs to signing on the dole. (R) **6.55 5 News Weekend.** **7.00 World War II in Colour.** Examining Mussolini's decision to push Italy's forces into North Africa, and looking at the air and sea battles for control of the strategically vital Mediterranean island of Malta. (R) **8.00 America's Hidden Pyramid City: Ancient Mysteries.** A team of experts uses cutting-edge technology to examine the history of an ancient Native American civilisation that built a metropolis in what is now Illinois. (R) **9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, which included Burnley v Hull City and Middlesbrough v Blackburn Rovers. **10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables. **10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The detectives are forced to rely on an officer from another district when a rape victim refuses to talk to anyone but him, while introductions to the new ADA go badly. (R) **11.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** An ex-financier is questioned about the murder of his girlfriend – but the focus of the investigation gradually shifts to the CEO of a dating website. (R) **12.15 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R) **4.00 Celebrity Big Brother: The Good, the Bad and the Outrageous.** (R) **5.00 House Doctor.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III:** Not in 3D **7.05 Don't Tell the Bride** **8.05 Top Gear Vietnam Special** **9.20 Film:** *Meet the Parents* (2000) **11.05 Russell Howard's Good News** **11.30 Family Guy** **1.00 Russell Howard's Good News** **1.30 Siblings** **2.00 The Revolution Will Be Televised** **3.00 Far Right and Proud:** Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia **4.00 Close BBC Four** **7.00 How Earth Made Us** **8.00 Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History** **9.00 The Young Montalbano** **10.45 Annabel's Nightclub: A String of Naked Lightbulbs** **11.45 Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark** **12.45 Shirley Bassey at the BBC** **1.45 Top of the Pops: 1981** **3.10 Sounds of the Eighties** **3.55 Close ITV3** **11.10 Ninja Warrior UK** **12.10 Scorpion** **1.05 You've Been Framed!** *Gold Full Throttle* **2.10 Film:** *Mr Bean's Holiday* (2007) **4.00 Film:** *Beethoven* (1992) **5.50 Celebrity Catchphrase** **6.50 Film:** *The Mummy Returns* (2001) **9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip** **10.20 The Keith Lemon Christmas Show** **10.50 Film:** *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2008) **1.10 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands** **2.10 Reality Bites** **2.45 Teleshopping** **5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen** **ITV3** **1.50 The Return of Sherlock Holmes** **4.00 Film:** *Columbo: It's All in the Game* (1993) **6.05 Midsomer Murders** **10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **12.05 Blue Murder** **1.40 Man About the House** **2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping** **ITV4** **1.35 Film:** *No Name on the Bullet* (1959) **3.10 Film: *Dunkirk* (1958) **6.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship.** *The Buenos Aires ePrix.* **8.30 Storage Wars** **9.00 Film:** *Escape from New York* (1981) **11.05 Film:** *The Return* (2006) **12.50 Film: *Red Heat* (1988) **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping** **Eurosport** **3.05 The Goldbergs** **4.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **5.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film:** *Bridesmaids* (2011) **11.30 Gogglebox** **1.35 Virtually Famous** **2.20 The Inbetweeners** **3.15 The IT Crowd** **4.05 2 Broke Girls** **4.30 Rules of Engagement** **5.15 Revenge Film4** **11.00 California Man (1992) **1.00 Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **2.40 Chocolat (2000) **5.00 City of Ember (2008) **6.45 Shallow Hal (2001) **9.00 Salt (2010) **10.55 ATM (2012)******************

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CHOICE	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	DIGITAL
<div><p>Patrick Kielty</p></div> <div><p>Patrick Kielty's Mulholland Drive (BBC2, 10pm)</p><p>Patrick Kielty's journey to find the truth about William Mulholland, who was responsible for building Los Angeles' water infrastructure and providing a water supply that allowed the city to grow into one of the largest in the world. Patrick's family all worked for the water company in Northern Ireland and upon discovering that the man who gave LA its water was from Belfast, decided to find out why he isn't globally recognised.</p></div>	<div><p>6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News. Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.15 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.35 Nature's Miracle Orphans. 6.35 BBC News. 6.50 Regional Programme. 7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore Lyme and Wear, visiting a lighthouse currently being restored and a country park on the site of an old coal mine that is now home to a variety of wildlife and a cattle farm, as well as looking for glass smoothie by the tide in Seaham. Olympic boxer Nicola Adams reveals her favourite countryside destination, Adam Henson meets some of Suffolk's country breeds, and Tom Heap investigates Britain's flood defences. Including Weather For The Week Ahead. 8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Julienne has an eye-opening experience on a maternity ward, and a young man from Poplar is accepted into university – but an unexpected development threatens his dreams. 9.00 War and Peace. Chaos descends on Moscow as the French army attacks the city. The Rostovs realise they are in danger and flee for their lives. Natasha finds herself with an unexpected travelling companion, and sees a last chance to make amends. Sonya is asked by the countess to make a sacrifice for her family. Traumatized by his experiences on the battlefield, Pierre resolves to stay behind and fight the invaders, and as he struggles through a hard winter, the scenes of horror and kindness he witnesses change his outlook on life. Last in the series. 10.20 BBC News. 10.40 Regional Programme. 10.50 Match of the Day 2. Jason Mohammad reviews the day's Premier League action. 11.55 Film: In the Valley of Elah. (2007) Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon. 1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.50 BBC News.</p></div>	<div><p>6.05 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.50 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.35 The Secret History of the British Garden. 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.00 Best Bakes Ever. (R) 11.45 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 Film: We Dive at Dawn. (1943) Second World War adventure, starring John Mills. 2.35 Film: None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. 4.15 Cats vs Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) 5.15 Flog It! (R) 6.15 Ski Sunday. Including action from the men's World Cup downhill competition in Jeongseon, South Korea, which is set to be one of the host venues at the 2018 Winter Olympics. 7.00 Six Nations Rugby Union. John Inverdale presents action from the opening round of the 2016 championship, featuring Scotland v England at Murrayfield, Ireland v Wales at the Aviva Stadium and France v Italy at the Stade de France. All of the nations were playing their first matches since last year's World Cup, with France and England aiming to impress under new coaches after disappointing in that tournament. With analysis by Keith Wood, Martyn Williams and Jeremy Guscott. 8.00 Greece with Simon Reeve. Part one of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises. 9.00 James May's Cars of the People. James looks into some of the planned new directions in motoring that never caught on, driving an amphibious car and an electric scooter, and taking a ride in a driverless car. Last in the series. 10.00 Patrick Kielty's Mulholland Drive. A journey to find the truth about William Mulholland, who was responsible for building Los Angeles' water infrastructure and providing a water supply that allowed the city to grow. (R) 10.50 American Football: Super Bowl 50. Denver Broncos v Carolina Panthers (Kick-off 11.30pm). Live coverage of the 50th staging of the showpiece event. 3.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 4.30 Holby City. (R) 5.30 This Is BBC Two.</p></div>	<div><p>6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival Show. 9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 FIA Formula E Championship. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Off Their Rockers. (R) 1.00 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.15 Catchphrase. (R) 6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a human cannonball, a high-wire motorbike display, a whip-cracking cowboy, a death-defying acrobat and a performer who slices flying fruit. Narrated by Warwick Davis. 7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Slean's intended bride arrives in Herot, but his mind is elsewhere as he is torn between his loyalty to his mother and his own lust for power. 8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the discovery of a young man's body in an area notorious for illicit teenage gatherings, the corpse wrapped in plastic sheeting and having received a blow to the head. Vera follows the trail to a funeral where the victim used to work and a church where he sought refuge, having recently been made homeless. She delves into his family history to discover why he was on the streets when his parents lived nearby, while forensic evidence implicates the son of the vicar, who has a criminal past. 10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 Rookies. Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee police officers from the Lincolnshire force, charting their progress as they venture out onto the streets. (R) 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 11th round of fixtures. 12.10 Jackpot247. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen.</p></div>	<div><p>6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 2.35 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Comedy, starring Zachary Levi. 4.15 The Simpsons. (R) 4.45 The Simpsons. (R) 5.15 Channel 4 News. 5.35 Film: X-Men. (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. 7.30 The Jump. Davina McCall presents the second round of the celebrity winter sports challenge. The 11 remaining contestants compete in a Snow Cross event, with the losers of each race having to face a super-sized ski jump to determine which of them will be eliminated from the contest. 9.00 Deutschland 83. Moritz recuperates after the transplant, and decides to remain at home. However, both Annett and Schweppenstette are adamant that he must return to his assignment in the West. Alex Edel takes General Jackson hostage and forces him to denounce military plans in Western Europe. In German. 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sean Lock and Izy Suttie compete against Jon Richardson and Richard Osman in the words-and-numbers quiz, while Alex Horne and the Horne Section help out in Dictionary Corner. (R) 11.05 Film: Alien 3. (1992) Officer Ripley is marooned on an all-male prison planet, where she again faces her extraterrestrial arch-enemy. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver. 1.05 Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic. The doctors invite back some of their most memorable patients, including a woman who visited because of excess hair on her face and body. (R) 2.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. The property expert helps homeowners in Leeds, including a man struggling to sell his three-bedroom semi, and a woman whose dated bungalow is not attracting buyers. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, and could double their winnings with box 23 – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)</p></div>	<div><p>6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.45 Ticky Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.25 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.40 Little Princess. (R) 7.50 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 9.05 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.20 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) 11.30 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) 12.55 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.55 Film: My Favorite Marlin. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Christopher Lloyd. 3.40 Film: Three Men and a Little Lady. (1990) Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck. 5.35 5 News Weekend. 5.40 Film: Little Nicky. (2000) Comedy fantasy, starring Adam Sandler. 7.25 Film: Zoolander. (2001) Dim male model Derek Zoolander is stunned to find his career going downhill thanks to the arrival of an equally vacuous rival – but fails to realise he is merely a pawn in a dangerous game of international espionage and world domination. Comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Mila Jovovich, Christine Taylor and David Duchovny. Edited for sexual content and language. 9.00 Film: The Internship. (2013) Premiere. Two old-fashioned salesmen find their careers derailed by changes in technology. They nevertheless manage to get internships at an internet company, but face a battle to come to terms with modern business methods, while competing against younger rivals. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson and Rose Byrne. 11.15 Film: The Green Hornet. (2011) A playboy media-mogul becomes a masked crime-fighter, with the help of his kung fu expert chauffeur. Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen, Jay Chou and Cameron Diaz. 1.25 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.10 America's Hidden Pyramid City: Ancient Mysteries. The rise and fall of a Native American civilisation. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R)</p></div>	<div><p>BBC Three</p><p>7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 7.10 Great TV Mistakes 7.40 The Voice UK 9.00 Film: Meet the Fockers (2004) 10.50 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.15 Family Guy 12.35 Cuckoo 3.25 Cuckoo Christmas Special 4.00 Close</p><p>BBC Four</p><p>7.00 Montalbano and Me: Andrea Camilleri 7.50 Britain's Wild Places 8.00 Russia's Lost Princesses 9.00 Film: Palo (2015) 10.30 History of the Eagles 12.30 TutanKhamun: The Truth Uncovered 1.30 Rock 'n' Roll America 2.30 Sounds of the Eighties 2.55 Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 3.55 Close</p><p>ITV2</p><p>11.35 Take Me Out 12.55 Take Me Out – The Gossip 2.00 Grease: Live 4.55 Minion Madness 5.10 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 7.00 Film: Legally Blonde (2001) 9.00 Ibiza Weekend 10.00 Film: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) 11.55 Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) 2.00 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen ITV3</p><p>11.25 Film: Columbo: It's All in the Game (1993) 1.30 The Return of Sherlock Holmes 2.45 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant 9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks 10.00 Mrs Bings 11.30 Film: Hamlet (1990) 2.05 Film: Till Death Us Do Part (1969) 3.45 Heartbeat 5.25 Judge Judy ITV4</p><p>1.35 Counting Cars 2.25 The Classic Car Show 3.30 Film: No Name on the Bullet (1959) 5.10 Film: Dunkirk (1958) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Nighthawks (1981) 11.05 Film: Apocalypse Now (1979) 2.05 Ax Men 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping E4</p><p>2.30 Film: School of Rock (2003) 4.45 Ride (sh) Tube Shorts 5.00 The Goldbears 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Inbetweeners 1.15 The IT Crowd 2.15 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.00 Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 Film4</p><p>11.00 Destination Gobi (1953) 1.00 Step Up (2006) 3.15 Bugsy Malone (1976) 5.05 First Daughter (2004) 7.15 Airplane! (1980) 9.00 Patriot Games (1992) 11.15 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995)</p></div>

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Hannibal, Channel 5, 10.55pm
Fugitive serial killer Dr Hannibal Lecter has gone into hiding as an academic in Italy, but a disfigured victim is determined to find him and inflict a gruesome revenge. Ridley Scott's thriller sequel, starring Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore and Ray Liotta. (2001)

TUESDAY

A Surrogate's Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A college student agrees to be a surrogate mother for a wealthy couple in return for her tuition fees being paid, only for the prospective parents to die in a car crash. Drama, starring Cassie Steele. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

Michael Clayton, BBC1, 11.45pm
A troubled attorney takes over a high-profile case when a colleague suffers a nervous breakdown and threatens to blow the whistle on corporate corruption. However, as he tries to limit the damage, he uncovers damning proof that will expose a secret group of conspirators – who are prepared to commit murder to keep the evidence buried. Legal thriller, starring George Clooney and Tom Wilkinson. (2007)



Michael Clayton, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

THURSDAY

Guilty at 17, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager believes her friend when she lies about being sexually harassed by a teacher, and falsely claims to have witnessed an incident. When the accused teacher commits suicide, she is consumed with guilt and begins to suspect she has been deceived. Crime drama, starring Erin Sanders and Alex Paxton-Beesley. (2014)

FRIDAY

Evil Under the Sun, ITV, 11.15pm
Hercule Poirot braves the heat and sand to investigate the murder of a glamorous stage star on an idyllic Adriatic holiday island. It becomes clear many people had reason to want the temperamental actress dead and the Belgian sleuth is soon hard at work figuring out which of her enemies eventually managed to kill her. Mystery, with Peter Ustinov, Diana Rigg, James Mason, Maggie Smith and Jane Birkin. (1982)

Mulder and Scully are reopening their files

It could be a case for Mulder and Scully – whatever happened to the top-rated sci-fi series and its characters when it went off air for 14 years? Thankfully, we're about to find out because The X-Files is back.

Even the most die-hard of fans (and let's face it, there were plenty of those around during the show's original run, from 1993 to 2002) never thought they'd get to see their heroes in action again, and have been almost beside themselves with glee at the prospect since the reboot was announced.

Not that bringing back much-loved cult series is a rarity these days. Doctor Who made a triumphant return, nine years after he last featured in the lacklustre 1996 film, while Twin Peaks is set to appear on our screens in 2017 following a 26-year hiatus.

Both David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson have agreed to reprise their roles as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully – it just wouldn't have been the same without them.

Both stars have enjoyed success in various projects following the end of

the original series, with Anderson particularly familiar to UK viewers thanks to her appearance on TV in the likes of The Fall, Great Expectations, The Crimson Petal and the White, and the recent adaptation of War and Peace.

They will be joined by various other original run alumni, including Mitch Pileggi as the FBI's assistance director Walter Skinner, and William B Davis, who plays the enigmatic Smoking Man.

What surprised many is that Channel 5 outbid other broadcasters to grab the right to show the six-part run. "Securing the UK premiere of the hugely anticipated return of The X-Files is a major coup for the channel and will create one of the television events of 2016," said Ben Frow, director of programmes at Channel 5. "This acquisition underlines our ambition to deliver a diverse slate of brilliant, must-see programming on Channel 5."

So far, feedback has been very good. Okay, so some critics have been unkind, but fans – and they are the ones who are important here –

have given it an overwhelming thumbs-up.

What's more, the first episode features a recap that will be invaluable to casual viewers, or those who didn't watch the original run or either of its spin-off movies. After that, it's the monster-of-the-week approach that takes centre stage as Mulder and Scully get to grips with more intrigue and conspiracy.

When we meet them again, the duo have been living separate lives for years – she at a medical practice, him ploughing his own furrow. They are brought back together by a cable TV host who wants them to help him expose a sinister organisation he believes has the power to control the American public.

Channel 5 is also broadcasting The X-Files: Reopened immediately before the first edition, enabling fans to see behind-the-scenes footage of Duchovny and Anderson in action with the show's creator, Chris Carter.

Will the programme's return whet our appetite for more? Probably – the question is, will it ever be sated?



Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny star in The X-Files, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking BBC2, 8.30pm

The Great British Bake Off judge prepares a selection of dishes perfect for outdoor entertaining and lazy summer days, beginning with a whole seabass with lime and dill butter. Mary then meets experts Jules and Nick to have a go at catching crayfish in the waters of Oxfordshire, before using the crustaceans in an oriental vegetable salad. She then demonstrates simple recipes for lamb burgers with mint mayo, and smoked Texan chicken wings, and finishes with refreshing lemon and elderflower jellies.

Royal Navy Sailor School Channel 4, 9pm

New series. Documentary following two classes of new Royal Navy recruits as they start their training at HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall. In the first episode, a fresh intake arrives at HMS Raleigh to begin 10 weeks of training, the first two of which can make or break their career. Exhaustion and homesickness leave teenager Harland questioning if this life is really for him, while the eldest member Craig Rowan (32) sees this as his last chance to make something of himself and his instructors think he might be leadership material.

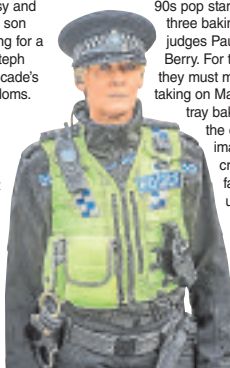
TUESDAY

Back in Time for the Weekend BBC2, 8pm

The Ashby-Hawkins family sample life in the 1960s and with more money to go around, there's more fun to be had, including a trip to the seaside, a Dansette record player for 16-year-old Daisy and even their own Mini to enjoy. Dad Rob and son Seth take on football legend Trevor Brooking for a game of Subbuteo, and Daisy and mum Steph meet Sandie Shaw to discover how the decade's daring fashions reflected the growing freedoms.

Happy Valley BBC1, 9pm

The last time we saw Sgt Catherine Cawood, she was feeling pretty good about catching her nemesis, Tommy Lee Royce, the man she holds responsible for her daughter's suicide. You would think, then, that she would be cheerier when we catch up with her again, almost two years later. However, Catherine is the sort of woman who carries the world on her shoulders – besides which, she's about to make a very grisly discovery, one that makes her colleagues wonder if a serial killer is on the loose.



Happy Valley, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off BBC1, 8pm

Ed Byrne takes on the role of host as ex-Spice Girl Geri Horner, BBC World Affairs editor John Simpson, footballer and pundit Jermaine Jenas and 90s pop star Louise Redknapp face three baking-related tasks set by judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry. For the signature challenge, they must make savoury tarts, before taking on Mary's chocolate and beetroot tray bake in the technical. Finally, the celebrities must use their imagination as they attempt to create 3D models of their favourite sporting moments using biscuits.

THURSDAY

Jericho ITV, 9pm
Charles arranges for stone to be quarried from a nearby site, and panic sets in for Annie and Johnny when they

discover it is where the bodies of Happy Jack and Red are buried. The townsfolk are outraged at the thought of their old foreman's body being moved and rally round his widow Hatty, but she is won over by the promise of a decent headstone for his new grave, so Johnny takes charge of the exhumation, hoping he can prevent Red's body being discovered. Meanwhile, Isabella tells Charles she wants to be his wife in every sense, but when housemaid Epiphany lets something slip about her past, no one is prepared for the consequences.

FRIDAY Mr Selfridge ITV, 9pm

Reeling from the bad publicity after the assault on the store, Harry finds himself forced to admit the true state of his financial affairs when Dancona piles on more pressure, and later finds himself embroiled in a costly spat with media magnate Lord Wynnstay. Mr Grove and Miss Mardle plan their very special forthcoming event, and Meryl enlists Tilly's help for a very important task – fuelling Miss Ellis' ire in the process. Mae and Victor grow closer, leaving Jimmy to become increasingly jealous. Drama, starring Jeremy Piven, Katherine Kelly, Amanda Abbington and Tom Goodman-Hill.

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BRAIN GYM No.363

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

10	12	22	8		23		21	7	15	11
	15		3	15	16	21	9		19	
25	4	19	17	9	3	22	24	2	9	3
	3		14	7						
	21	9	10	9	3	19	11	9	24	4
24			13	2		22			1	
1	9	19	21	16	1	18	22	21	13	19
21		21			18	23			9	
16	19	16		19	2	2	4	5	22	4
15		3		26	15	15			15	
8	12	22	19	2	3	17	9	20	19	20
22		24	9	26	22	2	9		23	
19	11	9	21		23			13	19	21

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

O	C	Z	T	V	N	P	U	D	Y	E	G	M
X	Q	I	L	A	F	K	W	J	B	R	S	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. They show you what you can get with money (4-7)
- 9. She's always cut short (3)
- 10. The local newspaper made him redundant (4-5)
- 11. Silas is out to be of use to a ropemaker (5)
- 13. One object in rent is investment (7)
- 14. Their function is to secure quiet in class (6)
- 16. Government upsets the emigre (6)
- 18. Number return with piece of writing for broadcasting? (7)
- 19. Horse stepped very softly out (5)
- 20. Scramble at the pig's food (9)
- 21. A tie in an archery contest? (3)
- 22. Get straight an argument with privileges (3,2,6)

Down

- 2. Weed-killer (3)
- 3. Floral plate design (5)
- 4. In part of a hospital - mental, perhaps (6)
- 5. Refuse to go through all the cases? (7)
- 6. One result of juicy pickings (5,4)
- 7. A deep malady (3-8)
- 8. Put on to paper, Chinese style? (7,4)
- 12. Hardly the speed at which a tramp will walk! (5,4)
- 15. He foresees a hold-up over the reform (7)
- 17. He might make a streak on the ice (6)
- 19. A weapon attached to a rifle, perhaps (5)
- 21. Part - of the bridle? (3)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10				
11		12			13		
14			15		16		
18					19		
20						21	
22							

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Golden mean (5,6)
- 9. Wand (3)
- 10. Gazette (9)
- 11. Horrify (5)
- 13. Shyness (7)
- 14. Regular (6)
- 16. Fasten (6)
- 18. Personal (7)
- 19. Broaden (5)
- 20. Get rid of (9)
- 21. Unity (3)
- 22. Enterprise (11)

Down

- 2. Help (3)
- 3. Punitive (5)
- 4. Grass-cutters (6)
- 5. Put (7)
- 6. Advantage (5,4)
- 7. Sister's grandson (5-6)
- 8. Sceptic (11)
- 12. Utter ruin (9)
- 15. Greed (7)
- 17. Leave (6)
- 19. Destroy (5)
- 21. Possess (3)

Sudoku

		8	1	6	2			
3	1					6	7	
		7	3	9		8		
4	5						9	
			5		4		2	
2						4		5
		4		2		9		
1					3			6
	6	5	9		8	3		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	8	2	3	6	7	9
6	3	9	4	7	1	8	5	2
2	7	8	9	5	6	4	1	3
1	9	6	7	8	4	2	3	5
8	5	2	6	3	9	7	4	1
3	4	7	5	1	2	9	6	8
7	2	3	1	6	8	9	4	5
9	6	1	2	4	5	3	8	7
5	8	4	3	9	7	1	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Back; 3 Theatres; 9 Adorned; 10 Quote; 11 Discountable; 13 Strive; 15 Unson; 17 Counteragent; 20 Olive; 21 Accused; 22 Eighteen; 23 Play. Down: 1 Brandish; 2 Cross; 4 Hiding; 5 Acquaintance; 6 Rootless; 7 Slew; 8 Inconvenient; 12 Unitedly; 14 Roofing; 16 Menace; 18 Ease; 19 Bore. QUIK - Across: 1 Pick; 3 Sorcerer; 9 Ordinal; 10 Nasal; 11 In the interim; 13 Impale; 15 Speech; 17 Congratulate; 20 Ashen; 21 Founded; 22 Fatherly; 23 Reed. Down: 1 Prolific; 2 Cadet; 4 Oblong; 5 Contemptuous; 6 Respite; 7 Rule; 8 Intelligence; 12 Shielded; 14 Prophet; 16 Lawful; 18 Adde; 19 Waif.

Quiz

- 1. In which country is the state of Uttar Pradesh?
- 2. Who directed the film Jules et Jim?
- 3. What sort of animal is a tarpon?
- 4. What nationality is the avant-garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen?
- 5. Which physicist discovered alpha, beta and gamma rays?
- 6. What is the capital of Haiti?
- 7. Which king constructed the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?
- 8. In which century did the poet John Milton live?
- 9. What is the symbol used for the element magnesium?
- 10. In which year did the actor Steve McQueen die?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Thermos; 2 The Marshall Plan; 3 Tennessee; 4 Actress; 5 The helmet; 6 Mace; 7 Telescope; 8 Miles Davis; 9 Kurt Waldheim; 10 1856.
- Niner: INCURABLE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 1225 gives an animal,
- 324 gives a vegetable,
- 9548762 gives a mineral.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Beef it up – linguine al brasato



Restaurant in a canal-side setting



Light and space – The interior of Fiume is bright and breezy



Tempting tower – pollo saltimbocca

Forget new flavour of Pringles this is something to really get excited about

I GET excited very easily. I get excited when a new flavour of Pringles is unveiled

But when I found out that there is an Italian restaurant within walking distance of my flat – a long walk, admittedly – I got very excited. Taxi, take me to Fiume!

Fiume is in a lovely little spot. A canal-side restaurant in Compton spread over two floors. It's clean, bright, in a location that cries out for summer lunches in the sun, and staffed by an attentive team who make a fuss of you as soon as you arrive.

Your meal is soundtrack by a mixture of opera and mambo, set at a volume that does not intrude but instead actually rather soothes. So all we need now is some decent nosh and it is, as the saying goes, all gravy. Not literally all gravy, that would be a bit boring.

I must confess that I had decided that I

Pete Cashmore tucks in

liked Fiume even before I arrived. I absolutely adore Italian grub at any time, I'd live on it if I could, and when you have two of my favourite things – seafood and calzone pizzas – combined and thrown into the mix, then really, you're onto a winner.

Portions

Even better, they do something that I love in my Italians – they offer starter-sized portions of pasta to get the ball rolling, meaning you can, in theory, do pasta and pizza together and still come away not feeling like the Goodyear airship.

So that is what I resolved to do, go for the diddy-sized (although there was nothing especially diddy about it) spaghetti carbonara, and then that calzone. Elsewhere in the table, my fellow diners, codenames 'Mum'

and 'Dad', went for crespella di funghi, Italian crepe stuffed with mushrooms, followed by pollo saltimbocca, chicken wrapped in parma ham with mash, and calamari followed by linguine with a duck ragu, respectively.

I'm not one for competitive eating, but I like to think that I 'won' this meal. It really was a rip-snorter. Spaghetti carbonara is a dish that can often go wrong – it can be too creamy, it can be too eggy, it can contain rosey ham, all factors which can ruin what should be an indulgent dish.

No such worries at Fiume. Chunky pancetta, tart parmesan, just the right amount of creaminess and egginess.

The calzone did exactly what I expected of it. I believe I spotted prawn, squid and octopus in there. It was terrific fun to wrestle with. Elsewhere on the table my father pronounced himself thrilled with the calamari,

which came in a monster portion of great big rubbery rings and looked great, but seemed merely satisfied with his pasta – I didn't grill him on it excessively because he took about half an hour to polish it off and to ask him to talk would have exacerbated this process.

Delightful

Mother, meanwhile, seemed more than happy with both starter and main. A couple of coffees for the parents while I polished off another bottle of beer, and an entirely delightful eat-up was in the bag for £74, which is not too shabby.

Fiume really have got everything right – the attractive location, the attention levels of the staff, which is warm and just the right amount of fussy, and a menu that offers a wide choice.

I'd go back there in a heartbeat.



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Extended family house includes a terrace deck



THIS enlarged four-bedroom detached property in Hydes Road, West Bromwich, needs to be seen to be appreciated.

Including an attic bedroom with an en-suite, it is for sale through Skitts at £275,000.

There are three further bedrooms, refurbished house bathroom, a through lounge/dining room and an extension containing the fitted kitchen and family room with contemporary white units. Doors open out to an attractive raised decked terrace area which leads on to the appealing rear garden. Contact Skitts on 0121 5051818 or visit www.skitts.net



Traditional detached home with a hot tub



A TRADITIONAL detached family home in a prime residential location in Hagley Road, Halesowen, comes with a very large driveway and a double garage.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £300,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with a stained glass porthole window and original Minton tiled flooring and under-stairs storage, a WC, a large dining room with a period-style fireplace, a breakfast room/study, a kitchen with units, an oven with a six-ring gas hob and extractor, integrated fridge, a superb lounge with feature fireplace. There are three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom. The rear garden has spacious patio area, timber garden shed and a covered hot tub is included in the sale. Contact 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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NEW
HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue £795 pcm+Fees
Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: 2 large bedrooms and 1 single box room, large rear reception room, front reception room, modern fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished, EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Banners Lane £795 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 3 bedroom detached family home with gas central heating and off road parking for 3 cars. This great property has entrance porch, hallway with Minton tiled floor, front lounge, modern good size kitchen with French doors leading to the conservatory, utility room, 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom with shower. To the front of the property is off road parking and to the rear a large private garden with raised decking area. EPC: D



KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant £775 pcm+Fees
Absolutely fantastic and not to be missed. Within the catchment area for Glynne Primary School and Summerhill Secondary School. This huge semi-detached house has 2 reception rooms, large modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, conservatory, downstairs WC. This property has recently undergone a full makeover. Viewing is essential to appreciate the size of this house. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Richmond Street £650 pcm+Fees
A spacious and well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property in the heart of Halesowen. This lovely family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and briefly offers: Entrance hall, dining room, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, landing, 3 good size bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom and an additional w.c. To the front of the property is off road parking for 2 cars and to the rear a tiered garden. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Long Lane £625 pcm+Fees
A Victorian style semi detached house in this very convenient & popular location. This lovely property has recently been refurbished and comprises of: entrance hall with Minton flooring, front dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower and rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent £625 pcm+Fees
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as its so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close £595 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace house in this sought after area. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of: lounge, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Dudley Road £575 pcm+Fees
Centrally located in Halesowen Town Centre with good access links to the motorway and Birmingham. This 1st floor apartment features, good size lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Also benefiting from allocated parking, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



KIDDERMINSTER, Longfellow Green £550 pcm+Fees
Situated in a cul de sac location and not far from Kidderminster Town Centre and the local train station. Featuring 3 bedrooms, kitchen diner, lounge, family bathroom with shower over bath. Front and rear garden, gas central heated, fully double glazed. EPC: C



MERRY HILL, Columbus Avenue £550 pcm+Fees
Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and transport links. This fabulous apartment features modern decoration and can not be missed, and features 2 double bedrooms, dual aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking. Minimum contract for 12 months. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Greenhill Road £550 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This fantastic 2 double bedroom and terrace house close to Blackheath Town Centre, M5 J2 and bus links. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen with appliances, utility room and WC, upstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Southwick Road £530 pcm+Fees
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terrace house features a brand new fitted kitchen, 2 lovely reception rooms, private rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: D



BRIERLEY HILL, Pheasant Street £525 pcm+Fees
Immaculately presented mid terrace house in close proximity to Merry Hill Centre comprising of: Good size reception room, refitted kitchen/dining space, refitted bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, rear garden, parking area to front. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Unitt Drive £495 pcm+Fees
Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking into Cradley Heath and local train station. This apartment on the ground floor features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, large lounge with feature fireplace, house bathroom with shower, modern kitchen, gas central heating, allocated parking. EPC: G



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive £495 pcm+Fees
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, Gammage Street £475 pcm+Fees
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property has been refurbished with new carpets upstairs, new Worcester combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features an entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with shower, rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



QUINTON, College Road £475 pcm+Fees
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric plug in heating. Available Now. EPC: G



NETHERTON, St Georges Road £395 pcm+Fees
Beautiful refurbishment in a quiet location. This 1st floor apartment features electric storage heating, living room, brand new kitchen, 1 very large double bedroom, brand new house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. Viewing recommended to appreciate this nicely proportioned flat. EPC: D



LYE, High Street £375 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: E



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

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QUINTON **£179,950**



PARSONS HILL, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED home with DRIVEWAY to front & CONSERVATORY to rear. 12ft lounge with feature fireplace. 12ft kitchen & D/S WC. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. LARGE rear garden with WESTERLY aspect. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: TBC

BEARWOOD **£150,000**



LINDEN ROAD, SMETHWICK

SUPERBLY PRESENTED, traditional style terrace, POPULAR LOCATION, with Lounge & Open Plan Kitchen/dining room. TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS & LUXURY BATHROOM. Landscaped low maintenance rear garden with sunny aspect. GCH & alarm. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D.

BEARWOOD **£135,000**



HAMILTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

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As New. Still in wrapping.
Price £1,500.
07724 302950.

DARK MAHOGANY extending
dining table with six chairs, very
good condition, £80 ono. Buyer
must collect. 01384 638189.

DINING TABLE
68ins long with 6 upholstered
chairs. £300. Double bed £35.
Technics organ and stool £175.
Three piece leather cream suite
£100.
01562 820307.

THREE AND TWO SEATER
Settees. Chocolate brown. As new.
£250. o.n.o. 07583 283190.

TWO X 2 modern, red leather
settees, very good condition.
£250 ono. 01902 840480.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs,
Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation.
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PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
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UNEVEN FLOOR?
SPECIALIST IN FLOOR REPAIRING AND
PREPARING FLOORS READY FOR LAY
FLOORCOVERING, TILES ETC.
SANDING, GRADING AND REPAIRS
FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATES
MARK 07770 686 444

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART
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RUBBISH REMOVED
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A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
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Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed
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C.C. PAINTING & DECORATING
best quotes around. OAPs 20% off.
07874 814922 / 01902 632851.
MTK PAINTER & DECORATOR-
Competitive quotes. OAP discounts
01384 340930 / 07825 558940.

removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,
flat/house removals/clearances,
local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121
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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

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Discounts offered.
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AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS
AVAILABLE
PUNJABI SPEAKERS
MONDAY-SATURDAY
7AM-6PM
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Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast,
friendly & reliable service. Monday
to Saturday, 6 day service. Call:
0121 555 6060.

4
Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ALASKAN MALAMUTE female 3 year old neutered, chipped, house trained. £100. 07817 79667.

BLACK COCKER SPANIEL Dog, 20 months, vaccinated, chipped, KC Reg. 07854 471388.

GOLDEN OLDIES
BOB 10yr golden gentle labrador
RIGBY 9yr Beagle good with Cats, Children and Dogs
TITCH 10yr Jack Russell Girl
ZIGGI 12yr Patterdale boy
TARKA 10yr lakeland X girl
COCO 7yr Kelpie X Collie boy.
Also others available
01588 676106
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

SOS'SOS'SOS
A few days ago I received call to urgently rescue 4 Telford dogs, we were the 4th rescue that had been called. I was due to go on holiday, our kennels were also full but favours were called in and foster homes at the ready. We collected a 9yr old border collie who lived outside, never walked with muscle wastage, he could not even get in the car. Mature Bichon with a long standing eye infection caused him to go blind, in pain and needing expensive eye treatment. Another old little boy who was in a kennel with bad eyes, his feet covered in mud and faeces and ingrowing nails so he could not walk and will need extensive vet treatment. A little staffie cross with a painful hernia.

The condition and smell from these dogs was unbearable, they have now been sent to vets/groomers and are safe in foster homes who will take them to various vets/doggy hospital etc. This has cost us considerable funds we hadn't planned for if anyone can spare just a small amount we and the dogs would be grateful for any help. **Cheques payable to 'Animal Samaritans', The Round House, Horderley, Craven Arms, SY7 8HT. 01588 676106**

WILD ACRE RESCUE Reg Charity.
Bella is a beautiful Staffie who likes to be around people, she has limited sight but understands basic commands and loves to play and take long walks.
Bella needs a home on her own where she will get undivided attention, she is spayed, chipped and vaccinated.
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.
If you are interested in adopting Bella please contact Angela 07714 442263 or lan 07792 928656.
All homes are subject to a home check.
wildacrescue.co.uk and facebook.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price



We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
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Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
Houses/Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7local on 07870 341 089
Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

accommodation to let

A ONE BEDROOM flat in Shifnal for over 40's. Wednesfield Housing Association. 01952 456003.

ATWO BED FLAT off Tattenhall Rd. CH, DG. Off road parking. £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

CLEAN FURNISHED Bedsit, own bath/kitchen. £65-£90 p/w. Mature DSS considered. 07550 002549.

DUDLEY AREA nice one bed flat to let, CH, fitted kitchen £110pw. Including Gas, Electric, Council tax and Water. No pets / DSS. 07803 693098.

UP MARKET single flat let, Gornal, recently refurbished, suit single reserved gent, to include most out goings. £105pw. 01384 821363.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

5 Business & Farming
business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LUXURY MOBILE HOME

On small site for the over 50s in Worcestershire, 2 bed, 2 bath, on end plot with large garden and decking area, immaculate throughout, many extras.

£35,000.

Telephone 07450 861457 or 07931 602140.



Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Headteacher: Mr Stephen Lanckham, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

We are seeking to appoint dynamic and well qualified teachers for Easter 2016 for one year contract in the subjects below.

- History
- Music
- RE
- Psychology

Windsor High School and Sixth Form is a large and successful mixed 11-18 comprehensive academy of 1704 students, more than 300 of whom are in our thriving Sixth Form.

We are the flagship school in a growing Multi Academy Trust which affords our staff many cross phase opportunities. We are highly ambitious for our students, staff and community and aspire to be exceptional in everything we do. Results are very high, we are oversubscribed and enjoy an excellent reputation. Professional development opportunities are outstanding.

For an application pack, please visit our website, www.windsor.windsoracademytrust.org.uk or contact us on 0121 550 1452.

Closing date: Friday 5th February 2016 at 12.30 pm

Windsor High School and Sixth Form is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced criminal records check.



8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

HARLOW TIMBER Kidderminster

Have vacancies for wood machinists to set and operate six head moulders and band re-saws
Experience preferred although training will be given to right candidates

Logistics Coordinator
Required for busy timber yard
Responsible for overseeing all yard operations- goods inwards and outwards
Experience required

Trainee Sales Administrator
Enthusiastic person required to learn all aspects of internal sales admin
Must be computer literate with a confident telephone manner
Please send your CV to Tim Darby, General Manager
t.darby@harlowbro.co.uk

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7DTI diesel, X reg, white, full MoT, owned last 8 years, excellent condition, multifunction steering wheel, 136k radio/CD, fitted never used electric tow bar, cloth interior, clean, very reliable, £800 ono. 07866 750420.

VAUXHALL CORSA red, 52 plate, 1.0, 3Dr, MoT'd, starts first time, good runner, £495. 07731 45409.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 1.2 2001, full MoT, service history, CD, PAS, beautiful condition, £575 ono. 01384 440258. 07935 337167.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, 1.8 petrol, black MoT Till Aug, many new parts, FSH, £1,500 ono. 01902 743352.

VW BEETLE 2002 reg, MoT, very good condition, low miles, alloys, alarm, AC, EW, stereo £925 ono. 07754 557861.

cars over £1500

AUDI A3 1.9TDI 2003, MoT June, 93,000 miles, FSH, 2 owners, very good condition. £1,750 ono. 07722 385693.

CITROEN PICASSO 7 seater, 2007, 87,600 miles, metallic silver, abs, electric pack, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control. £3,500 ono. 07790 437346.

FORD FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 56, 74,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, long MoT, 5dr, very good condition, £1,699. 07879 403302.



HONDA CIVIC ES

2008, 64k, bronze, abs, e/w, air bag, e/m, air con, Honda s/h, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, c/d, AC, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, glass roof, suede type seats. £4,769 ono. 0751 8212721.

KIA SPORTAGE

2012, 12,600 miles, white, KX3 Sat Nav, immaculate. Phone for full spec. £13,450 ono. 07854 663989.

MAZDA 5 56 reg, silver, 10 months MoT, 7-seater, 76,000 miles, immaculate condition. £3,000. 01902 653907 or 07827 320179.

MERCEDES C200 Kompressor Elegance, Auto, Estate, dark blue, MoT Oct 2, 2016, service history. £1,900. 01384 273177.

NISSAN PIXO 2009, 73k, MoT, PAS, A/C, 4 door, metallic grey/blue, Bargain £2,700. 07989 893203.

RENAULT MEGAN Scenic, Dynamique, 2.0, Auto, 53k miles, 11 months MoT, 07, very good condition. £1,800 ono. 01922 647302.

SUZUKI ALTO SZ

2014, 64 plate, 7,500 miles, white, electric windows, FSH, long MoT, 1 owner, PAS, Stereo, CD. £4,700. o.n.o. Telephone 07973 856992.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXi 1400CC 2006, silver, 55,000 miles, good condition, MoT'd, £1,850 ono. 07956 438279.



VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ELITE

2014, 30k, auto, Est. 2.0CDTI 195bhp bi-turbo, dealer ish, warranty, HTD electric mem seats, privacy, Sat Nav, DAB, electric tailgate. 19ins alloys. BiXenon, LED run lights, sensors, immaculate. £13,750. 07971 365912.

classic cars

AUSTIN MINI 1989, flame red and white, 1000cc, 73,700 miles, good runner, MoT'd, £3,300 or very near offer. 01902 681476.

JAGUAR XJS 4.0 1991. Only 66,000 miles. Light metallic blue. Sports auto box. Heated leather seats. SH, 10 months MoT. Good condition for year. £3,500 ono. 07904 662468 (Bridgnorth).

WANTED, CLASSIC CARS. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 562993 or 07734 462797.

driving tuition



Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, Ka, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £80! Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS MANUAL & AUTOMATIC AD/PPV REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
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Tel: 01902 408176
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OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted
alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics
MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 648469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

ALBERT HOLT (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Trinity House Care Centre Mace Street Grady Heath West Midlands B64 6HP, who died on 31/12/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Grady Heath West Midlands B64 5HW T402612

FORM OF STATUTORY NOTICE FOR INSERTION IN THE LONDON GAZETTE

NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Zion Christian Centre - The Venue, Little Cornbow, Halesowen in the registration district of Dudley in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, was on 20th January 2016 registered for solemnizing marriages therein, pursuant to "Section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by Section 1(1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act 1958)"

Signature
Superintendent Registrar

27th January 2016

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



Classified Ads

01902 317878

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, 5* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-3pm, Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

GENUINE MALE, 58.
From Wolves, slim, non smoker, own house and car, looking for a lady, any age for Friendship maybe more.

Box Number P20216
Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

NEW YEAR, NEW START
Attractive 36 year old male, whose genuine, honest, caring and is fun to be around.

I am looking for a like minded genuine lady aged 27 to 44 years for quality nights in and out, holidays, weekends away and who like going to football matches, for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.

Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated (returned). **Box Number C20211**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOWER
Who loves music and dancing. Likes holidays abroad and in this country. Has a lot of love to give to the right lady.

Box Number P20217, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

MISSING Commercial shipping documents Ref B/L NTGFX001974 This original bill of lading has been lost. If found, please return to: Kilo LTD, 10am Lane, Kingswinford, West Mids, DY6 7JU. 001384 293222 or info@kilold.co.uk

Express & Star DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...

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and follow the simple instructions

YOU can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:

http://dating.expressandstar.com

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..**

http://dating.expressandstar.com

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in for a gentleman, 40-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

Female, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pl call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 408715

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Look/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, love the life simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls received. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box: 420247

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. Text only Box 407825

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WILTM honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WILTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. Text only Box: 4139156

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WILTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh. I am married with open marriage. Text only Box: 4202257

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like guy cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WILTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busy 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

To **Reply** to members call:

0906 500 3955

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:

Text.. REPLY26 (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for yr safety and security.

Try it...
You'll love it!



Dates in **YOUR** region

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Single Women

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Female, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901

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CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420079

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FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WILTM male 45-55yrs for fun meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

CURRY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking and a good meal for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

Female medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

Female 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

Blue eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416899

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, fiery, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and disorients meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lovely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 5ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WILTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

ANJ 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WILTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

MARK 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418929

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861

MALE, 46, slim, WILTM a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853

62yr old professional male seeks female 50-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and friendship. Text only to mailbox: 4435871

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. Text only to mailbox: 5392042

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love, romance. Text only to mailbox: 5306896

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WILTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420433

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420721

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WILTM attractive, honest, caring, lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dem female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. Text only to mailbox: 4347071

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. Text only to mailbox: 5380553

MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. Text only to mailbox: 5381487

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking woman for sexy fun. Text only to mailbox: 5383533

ASIAN male, 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WILTM Asian female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 235383

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SEXY Indian male, 40, dark hair/eyes, fit, seeks fit, sporty, sexy, romantic female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301791

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160</

Struggling with parking?

New research shows that one in five qualified drivers (18 per cent), said they doubted their current driving skills would get them past an examiner – a figure which increased with age to peak at 24 per cent of over 65s.

Research conducted by Young Driver, which provides driving lessons for 10 to 17 year olds, questioned more than 1,000 UK drivers on skills relating to some of the best-known driving manoeuvres.

Twenty eight per cent of drivers said they struggled to parallel park, with a further one in four (25 per cent), admitting that reversing into a parking bay was a challenge they preferred to avoid. For female drivers these figures increased to 36 and 30 per cent respectively.

Worryingly, a quarter of all drivers (26 per cent) said they regularly parked some

distance from where they needed to be in order to get an 'easier' car parking space which didn't require as much skill. One in six drivers (16 per cent) admitted they often felt nervous when it came to parking – rising to one in four (26 per cent) 18 to 25 year olds.

And it seems it's not just parking which causes issues – one in six (16 per cent) admitted they struggle to complete a turn in the road without needing to undertake significantly more manoeuvres than the traditional three-point turn.

Young Driver, the UK's largest provider of pre-17 driving lessons, has produced a series of 'How To' videos to help drivers master everything from parallel parking to reversing round a corner. And although they were produced for 10 to 17 year olds, the group's research shows they are just as useful for parents needing a refresher too.

Kim Stanton, head of Young Driver, said: "When you learn to drive you are taught specific techniques to help you get your parking and reversing spot on, every time.



A quarter of all drivers said they regularly parked some distance from where they needed to be in order to get an 'easier' car parking space

But once you pass your test, unless you continue to use these techniques, the skills can quickly fade. Our new research shows that before long, many drivers are actively avoiding having to try, even if it means parking a long way from their destination and walking the rest of the way to avoid certain parking spaces!

"We produced a selection of 'How To' videos to help our pupils, who range in ages from 10 to 17, by giving them a chance to study the key techniques online before and after their lessons. But it seems our new video training might be handy for mums and dads too, with many current

drivers needing to brush up their skills! Tricky parking spots can often be avoided, but what about when it comes to life-and-death situations such as emergency stops? Many of us say we can't remember the last time we had to perform one in real life – which is obviously a good thing – but are we confident we could do it correctly if the need arose?"

Young Driver's series of 'how to' videos are available free at www.youngdriver.eu/howto and include how to reverse park in a bay, parallel parking, reversing round a corner, emergency stops and a turn in the road.



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Smooth cat is stylish, sleek and fuel-efficient

By John Griffiths

It's a challenge to design a 'clean sheet' new car that is better than its predecessor but still screams out the heritage and core values of its makers.

But that is the new Jaguar XF – sleek and sporty style that couldn't really be anything else but a 'Big Cat' with more than a hint of its flagship big brother, the XJ.

Yet it isn't all about show or brand identity, as under the skin it is entirely new, packed with the latest technology to make it a daunting prospect for its premium brand German rivals. The new XF has grace and pace: coupe looks but with a bigger, more luxurious interior with the latest in high tech toys to keep you entertained and in touch.

It is based around the latest Wolverhampton-built Ingenium turbo diesel engine which produces plenty of power while significantly cutting fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, potentially saving its owners thousands of pounds in VED and benefit-in-kind tax.

With new, slipperier aerodynamics and aluminium architecture replacing the old steel construction – the XF has shed some 190kgs – the figures are impressive. With the lowest powered (163PS) engine and manual gearbox they are more than 70mpg and a mere 104g/km – much more super-mini territory than executive express. Even the 180PS option with eight speed auto transmission the figures are an average 65.7mpg and a lowly 114g/km. Those compare with 129g/km for the old car, so the tax advantages are obvious.

With competitive insurance ratings and new measures to cut the cost of repairs, the XF now goes to the top of its class when it comes to benefit in kind tax, residual values and whole life costs.

I love design when form and function come together in perfect harmony. While the new XF has much more sporting lines, that's true of its behaviour, too.

Weight

The basis of its improved dynamics start with its lighter weight of its aluminium structure, which is also 25 per cent stiffer so that steering and suspension work to the optimum.

Plus it's slightly shorter – not by much, admittedly – but that's combined with a longer wheelbase and significantly shorter front overhang. While that helps to improve handling, and enhancing the XF's coupe-like good looks, it also allowed the engineers to build a car with more generous levels of head, knee and legroom for rear seat passengers.

At the same time, they have endowed the braking system with more pedal feel for the driver, and upgraded the suspension system.

The range starts at £32,300 for the 163PS manual, while the extra power of the 180PS engine starts costs £500 extra, model for model.

For those who want even more go there are two V6 range toppers – a 300PS turbo diesel and a 380PS petrol, both of which only come with the ZF eight-speed auto gearbox.

The test car was the 180PS automatic in top specification Portfolio trim, which comes in at £39,050.

From the moment you sit down in the big soft leather seats it feels every inch a Jaguar. You're surrounded by soft, stitched leather and wood venees, chrome switch gear and a simplified cockpit layout thanks to central colour touch-screen and digital instrument display.

It pulls away smoothly and in virtual silence, but once you reach the open road you get some measure of the XF's pace. It's 180 horses isn't massively powerful by executive car standards, but you have to factor in its light weight to get some measure of how the car performs.

The Portfolio spec car is packed with the latest safety equipment including stability and traction control, hill start assist, autonomous emergency braking, trailer stability control, rear parking sensors, brake pad wear warning and multiple airbags. Climate control, electric windows and a surround sound stereo system add to the standard package.

It also has Jaguar's latest 'InControl' touch screen navigation system with Wifi. Imagine, for example, you're heading for an appointment in a strange city – the system will give you a choice of potential parking spots in the vicinity and, once parked, switches seamlessly to your smartphone to guide you to your final destination.

The Jaguar's digital instruments are extremely clear and easy to read in all lights, but I confess I find myself increasingly seduced by the 'head up display' in cars. Jaguar charges an extra £1,220 for its laser-operated 'HUD' but for me it's money well spent. Having your actual speed, the current speed limit and block diagrams of the next junction displayed in clear symbols in front of you is a really boost for safety and convenience when navigating unfamiliar territory.

The new XF is arguably one of the most sleek and stylish or the executive saloons. With the major changes under the skin, it's also now one of the most cost-efficient of the breed, too.



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Lying 100 miles from the mainland and just 14 miles from the French coast, this tiny island is packed with history, and tradition.

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Brummies Stoke fires for opening night clash

BIRMINGHAM Surestop Brummies will get their 2016 season under way with a Good Friday clash against Stoke.

The Perry Barr outfit, reigning National League champions, host their local rivals in the National Trophy on March 25 at 7.30pm.

The club have also confirmed that their Press and Practice day will take place on Wednesday, March 23, with a pre-season fans forum also being held in the main grandstand the same night.

Brummies boss Graham Drury said: "Press and Practice mixed with the fans forum on the same night means we're in for a jam packed Wednesday, further details of which will be announced nearer the time."

"We're really looking forward to hosting Stoke on Good Friday; it will be good to get going with a competitive fixture against a tasty looking side who happen to be one of our local rivals."

Season tickets are still available. Full price details and information of how to order can be found via <http://www.birminghambrummies.co/admission>

Meanwhile, Brummies still have sponsorship and commercial opportunities available for the forthcoming season.

Drury emphasised the importance of financial support and feels the club has a lot to offer local businesses in return.

"The more backing you've got, the further you can go and at Birmingham Speedway we have really high ambitions," he said.

Further information and full details can be found by clicking the 'commercial' tab at birminghambrummies.co

Lennox to make up for lost time



Halesowen boxer Lennox Clarke

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke is eager to make up for lost time when he battles for a belt at Walsall Town Hall this month.

The hard-hitting super middleweight tops the bill when professional boxing returns to the venue on Friday February 19.

Clarke was due to take on Midlands middleweight champion Craig Cunningham last October, but pulled out through injury. Brummie southpaw Cunningham has now moved on with the title. Instead,

Clarke will attempt to seize the British Challenge crown against three-time Southern area title challenger Richard Horton, aged 34.

The 'Undefeated' show is promoted by Black Country Boxing and ring legend Ricky Hatton, who will lead Wednesbury's Sam Evans, Pauly Upton, Reuben Arrowsmith and big heavyweight Nathan Gorman into battle.

A Black Country heavyweight features in West Bromwich's Matt Gordon. Also in action is Manny Zaber,

from Old Hill. Meanwhile, Christian Amendola hit a steep learning curve as his England Youth Championship hopes evaporated.

He was pulled out by the referee before the first round was over of his bout at the Wallace Centre, Stoke-on-Trent.

Amendola, from Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, swapped leather at 60kg in the area semi-final against Jamie Edwards, from Triumph in Coventry, but came off second best.

Morris eager to get back in the saddle for Heathens

CRADLEY fans favourite Ashley Morris is counting down the days to his first meeting back with the club.

Morris, who won every honour possible with the Heathens during his four seasons with them, is set for an emotional return to the green, red and white.

And he admits he will be on guard to avoid any complacency after a successful spell with King's Lynn in the top flight last season.

Morris said: "Obviously I haven't ridden in the National League for a couple of years, but I know I'm still going to have to be at my best - and I can't wait to get started back with Cradley."

"I obviously haven't got a team place in the Premier League but I'm viewing the situation positively and I'm delighted to be back with Cradley."

"I'm excited for the season to start now and I'm just looking to make the most of it. If I'm going out and winning races it can only help me and build my confidence no matter what level it's at, so that's what I'll be trying to do."

"The last season I had with Cradley was great, so if I can get back to that form and win races on a regular basis again to help us win meetings that will be brilliant."

Tickets are running out as the new-look Heathens prepare to meet with supporters for the first time ahead of the new season.

Only 30 tickets remain for their Season Launch Night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday, March 21.

They cost £5, from the club shop in Cradley Heath Market or on the club's official website, cradleyheathens.co, via Paypal.

Greg is Lynch-pin to widen golf's appeal

PGA pro Greg Lynch hopes that coaching youngsters across the Black County proves a sure-fire way to make the sport of golf cool.

Lynch, who hails from Birmingham but began his training at Halesowen Golf Club before moving on to coach at Warley Woods, set up his GL Golfing Academy almost seven years ago and has since coached thousands across the region.

Generally one of the sports that struggles with an elitist image, golf has faced an uphill struggle in recent times but things are brightening up according to Lynch.

He said: "A big part of what I'm trying to do is get the sport away from elitism. Golf needs to be more accessible, especially for the youngsters. "What we're doing at Warley Woods at the moment is great. It's a nine hole pay and play."

"There is no dress code. You can show up in your jeans and trainers rather than the old style of colours and trousers, where you needed a membership. It can definitely put youngsters off."

Several

"With Rory McIlroy you have a good young sportsman putting a across a message about accessibility." Lynch, who played several pro am events and turned professional in 2008, soon found himself turning his hand to coaching a year later. "We're coaching around 800 students every year through the academy," he added.

"My vision was to grow the game and its participation levels. Everything spiralled from there, really. I work with around 25-30 schools in the area including 15 in Sandwell. All of the schools have taken really well to it. Brandhall Primary School in Oldbury is one of the schools I've been working with for a while and I try and encourage the kids to get involved at Warley Woods."

"With the primary schools I tend to make it more fun-based activities. They learn the basics - the hold and the stance - and if they enjoy it they come to the club and learn more about techniques. Back when I learned it was very 'old school'. We would line up and it was almost like an army procedure, but research has shown the kids want it more fun and relaxed."

Springfield Primary School, in Rowley Regis, and Ormiston Forge Academy, in Cradley Heath,



Pro golfer Greg Lynch, during a golf workshop at Oakham Primary, Tividale, helping youngsters get into the sport

are two more schools looking to acquire Lynch's unique training services, while Bristnall Hall in Oldbury is another secondary school that proves children in their teenage years are also keen to get involved.

He added: "The Lyng Primary School (West Bromwich) has really tried to push it into its curriculum. It links with maths and helps with things like life skills and honesty. We're really trying to promote things like teamwork, respect and honesty."

Lynch received a huge set of Tri-Golf equipment from the Golf Foundation that helps the coaching function. He also receives financial help from other organisations, such as the Sandwell Play Scheme on behalf of Sandwell Council.

Any schools, colleges or those of any age looking to get in the swing of things can contact Lynch on enquiries@golffacademy.com or visit <http://golffacademy.com/> - for several different tuition courses.

Whiley looks at positives after defeat

HALESOWEN star Jordanne Whiley admitted she was gutted to lose at the semi-final stage of the Australian Open wheelchair tennis women's doubles - but feels there are positives to take.

Jordanne and her partner Lucy Shuker - 2012 Olympic bronze medalists - were edged out over three sets in the semi-final, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 by Dutch top seeds Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot.

"I'm absolutely gutted," said Whiley. "I gave it everything I had out there but it was just not to be."

"There are a lot of positives that we can take."

Shuker said: "It was a good match today in tough conditions. There are a lot of positives to take away and I'm looking forward to continuing the hard work ready for the next tournaments leading up to Rio."

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Victories put Glassboys in play-off reach

Stourbridge 2 Marine 0

THE Glassboys moved to within a point of the play-offs with a goal in each half on Monday night.

The visitors played their part in the game and it was the Merseysiders who made the running early on. But they couldn't convert their first half pressure into goals.

Stourbridge grabbed the opener on 19 minutes when Leon Broadbent broke into the box and squared it for Karl Hawley to easily score his 22nd goal of the season.

On 52 minutes though it was 2-0 when Justin Richards laid the ball off for Chris Lait who stepped into the box and side-footed the ball into the net.

The result lifted the Glassboys to sixth in the table, one place outside the play-off places with three games in hand.

Stourbridge 5 Hyde United 1
ASSISTANT manager Jon Ford has demanded "more of the same" from his Stourbridge side after last Saturday's emphatic demolition job over the Tigers.

Goals from Karl Hawley, Matt Dodd and Chris Lait ended the contest by half-time before second half goals from Justin Richards and Ashley Vincent rounded off an impressive victory for the Glassboys.

"It was the perfect day apart from conceding right at the end," Ford said.

● Stourbridge are running a supporters' coach to their FA Trophy third-round tie at Nantwich on Saturday. This will depart from Old Wharf Road, by the ground, at 11.45am.

Seats can be booked, subject to availability, by contacting Jim McComish on 07966 568767 after 5pm.

The fare will be £10 for club members and £15 for non-members.

Victory over the Cheshire outfit would take the Glassboys through to the last eight for the first time since the 1971.

Heavyweight champ Fury tops the bill at sporting dinner

CONTROVERSIAL world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury will be the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in Birmingham next month.

The reigning IBO, WBO and WBA 'super' titlist will take centre stage at the newly-opened Vox Centre - part of Resorts World in the National Exhibition Centre - on Friday February 19.

The 27-year-old Mancunian will be interviewed on the night by Telford's Richie Woodhall, the former WBC super middleweight champion and boxing pundit.

Standard tickets have all sold out but gold and platinum passes are still available, either per person or at a reduced rate for tables of 10.

Gold, costing £75, includes seating in the middle of the hall, a three-course meal and a photo opportunity, for an extra £20, with Fury.

VIP, at £150, includes 'premier' seating, the meal and the picture included in the price. Sponsorship packages are also available. Call promoter Ken Purchase on 07976 842 383 or to buy online, visit www.boxfroguk.com

Sticky conditions for club runners

Athletics

IT was another Saturday and another muddy field to run round for athletes from Dudley King-swinford Running Club.

Rather than the bread and butter of the Birmingham League this was like a cup game as the muddy field was in Loughborough and the event was the Midlands Cross Country Championships, attracting clubs from all four points of the compass, making it a particularly competitive event.

Originally due to be held at Stafford Common, waterlogging at the original venue meant a change of plan with Prestwold Hall in Leicestershire stepping in at almost the eleventh hour.

The additional travelling distance put a num-

ber of runners off but DK were still able to field a strong team to race round the three lap, 12 kilometre course.

Despite a very gluey surface churned up by previous age group races, Ben Foster was first home for the blue hoops in 55th place in 43.07, Rob Meredith was not too far behind in 62nd in 43.20.

However Matt Biggs was forced to pull out after two laps, the sticky conditions and uncertain surface aggravating a hamstring problem. This left Dave Norman to take third place for the

club in 161st in 49.10, Daren Thompson finishing fourth counter in 166th in 49.35, Simon Blizard was 178th in 49.54 and Darran Bishop was sixth counter for the club finishing in 199th in 50.59.

Knocking on the door of the A team, Mark Homer came home in 216th in 52.07, Kieran Pitt was 250th in 54.18, Paul Silk was 268th in 55.30 and Graham Wildgoose was 272nd in 55.52.

With Notts AC, Tipton Harriers and Owls AC taking the medals DK came home a very respectable 13th of the 32 clubs, ahead of the big-hitters of Wolverhampton & Bilston, Birchfield Harriers and Halesowen AC.

VISITORS SHOW THEIR POWER

Old Halesonians 10 Scunthorpe 28

THIS was to be a defining game for a play-off position and Scunthorpe showed their strength in most aspects of the game.

Traditionally Hales start strongly and tend to dominate early but here, the visitors attacked from the off.

Their forward power was evident and pressure on a Hales clearance kick forced a charge down and an early try.

Hales came back but could not stem the forward power of the visitors who again scored from a loose maul to take a 10-0 lead.

The shocked home side needed to rally and gained a penalty which Dave Hadkiss kicked.

Hales put some passages together but failed to break the defence and could not produce enough phases. Replacements were used, Steve Leach for Guy Field and Owen Jones for Jay Martin.

More pressure by Scunthorpe resulted in a converted penalty for a 13-3 half-time advantage.

The second half started more positively with aggressive tackling and running by back row Tom Jordan, Max Macfarlane and Loz Breese.

But the visitors continued to use their simple tactical play to make ground down the field. They won a line out in the home 22, a catch and drive for an easy converted try. From the kick off another attack by Scunthorpe resulted in a Hales infringement and another penalty, which the visitors kicked.

Hales were forced to make changes to try to stem the flow. On 65 minutes constant pressure by Hales saw hooker Pete Fitzgerald collect the ball 10 metres out and drive for a score, converted by Hadkiss.

This gave the home side some encouragement and they continued to put pressure on. But the Scunthorpe defence stood strong and they returned the pressure to the home 22. Another infringement by Hales led to another line out, a catch and drive and the final score in the corner.

Hales vie to stay in contention with a rearranged home league fixture against Peterborough Lions this Saturday, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Hales 2nds lost 32-17 at Derby, while the fourths lost at Bromsgrove vets.

Groundhog Day feeling for DK



Ollie Shakespeare seen for DK with the ball against Bridgnorth in a closely fought contest

DK 16 Bridgnorth 23

DK were left with a feeling of Groundhog Day thanks to a narrow defeat with a late try.

In the 17th minute Bridgnorth were trying to relieve the pressure, and were penalised by the referee for crossing, up stepped Duncan Tompkins and DK were on the scoreboard.

The DK pressure built up during this period of the game, and a quick penalty by Connah Jones was rewarded by the awarding of another penalty closer to the posts, Tompkins kicked for goal and put DK into the lead.

The third quarter has been the time in recent weeks when DK have taken control on

the game and scored points, but not here. Bridgnorth inside centre Will Crossley, powered over to make it 10-6, and that was soon 15-6 when the visitors took full advantage of a loose ball to add a further try.

DK came back into the game and the award of a penalty try was followed by a Tompkins conversion and another Tompkins penalty gave DK a 16-15 lead.

So DK were in the lead with 10 minutes to go, until Groundhog Day struck again.

Bridgnorth 10 Matt Farrington cut through the defence to score, making it 20-16 and the scoring was finished by a Bridgnorth penalty. DK travel to Burton on February 13.

Home loss for Stour is major blow

Stourbridge 3 Leicester Lions 10

STOUR'S National 2 North campaign suffered a major blow with this home loss.

Despite dominating first half possession and territory, Stour were guilty of trying to force matters, their endeavour undone by handling errors and a well organised Lions' defence.

On an afternoon to forget, Stour salvaged a losing bonus point thanks only to the wayward boot of the visitors' outside half Jon Williams who missed four kicks at goal.

Stour had a let-off when Lions winger Sam Benjamin scorched round the cover to draw the last defender but with the line at his mercy centre Luke Veebel fumbled the scoring pass and the scoreboard remained untroubled at the break.

That was to change very quickly when the teams took the field for the second half.

Stour aimlessly kicked away possession near halfway to set up a Lions' attack, Williams ghosted through a gap in the defensive line and linked with his wide runners, Benjamin crossing for a try in front of the scoreboard barely a minute in.

A fluffed clearance kick gifted the visitors another opportunity to run at the Stour defences, both sides coughing up the ball cheaply before replacement backrow Will Roach reacted quickest, burst through a gap in the misaligned Stour fringe defences and galloped 35m to score.

Stour frustration resulted in a reversed penalty directly in front of their posts but again Williams failed to convert. Stour opted for points when awarded a penalty at the other end and fullback Tom Mitchell's kick brought them back within a score.

On Sunday, Stour travel to Coventry to take on Broadstreet.

Yeltz suffer third defeat on the trot

Whitby Town 2 Halesowen Town 1

HALESOWEN suffered their third league defeat in a row, with all three goals in the game coming in eight second-half minutes.

MIKEY Roberts missed an open goal at the start of the second half but made no mistake moments later.

Kaiman Anderson equalised for Halesowen on 57 minutes when his shot was blocked by the legs of goalkeeper Shane Bland, but the ball looped into the goal.

Roberts saw a mis-hit shot squeeze past Rowley for the winner.

Halesowen are in 14th place ahead of Saturday's visit of Salford City.

★★★

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